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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is one of the  
2 safest and healthiest places in the nation for children and  
3 youth. However, many of Hawaii's youth are not immune to daily  
4 threats to their health and safety. Every year, youth run away  
5 from homes where abuse, neglect, and domestic violence are  
6 commonplace, or from schools where intolerable bullying becomes  
7 a major barrier to educational achievement. Without access to  
8 safe places, youth in these situations are vulnerable and may be  
9 victimized by predatory adults who lure them into alcohol and  
10 substance abuse or prostitution.

11           In October 2012, these concerns were discussed during the  
12 annual children and youth summit sponsored by the legislature's  
13 keiki caucus. In these discussions, youth expressed concerns  
14 over a lack of safe places. Youth were interested in accessing  
15 places where they could seek safety from intolerable home or  
16 school environments without fear of being judged, detained, or  
17 criminalized as a runaway. Youth also expressed interest in  
18 being able to access other youth-specific advice, guidance,



1 programs, and services, including guidance and counseling for  
2 suicide prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, tobacco use  
3 cessation, and alcohol and substance abuse support. Finally,  
4 youth wished to access safe places where they could have fun  
5 without the fear of being harassed, bullied, or pressured by  
6 other youth or adults. At the end of the summit, participating  
7 youth identified the need for safe places as one of their  
8 highest priorities.

9 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Require the office of youth services to coordinate a  
11 five-year safe places for youth pilot program, to  
12 coordinate a network of safe places which youth under  
13 the age of twenty-one can access for safety and to  
14 obtain advice, guidance, and access to programs and  
15 services;
- 16 (2) Establish the position of safe places for youth  
17 program coordinator;
- 18 (3) Establish rules to allow minors to consent to enter  
19 the safe places for youth program; and
- 20 (4) Appropriate funds for the safe places for youth  
21 program coordinator position and residential options  
22 for the pilot program.



1 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning on July 1, 2015, the office of  
2 youth services shall implement a safe places for youth pilot  
3 program in partnership with private organizations. The primary  
4 objective of the pilot program shall be to coordinate a network  
5 that youth may access for safety and to obtain advice, guidance,  
6 and access to programs and services. All youth under the age of  
7 twenty-one are eligible for the program's services.

8 (b) There is established the position of safe places for  
9 youth program coordinator. The coordinator shall:

- 10 (1) Coordinate the safe places for youth network;
- 11 (2) Partner with an entity to maintain an updated listing  
12 of safe places statewide;
- 13 (3) Provide ongoing training of school personnel,  
14 community members, and service providers designated as  
15 safe places for youth;
- 16 (4) Partner with the department of education, Hawaii state  
17 student council, peer education programs, private  
18 schools, and other youth services organizations to  
19 build awareness of the safe places for youth network;  
20 and
- 21 (5) Convene an annual meeting of safe places for youth  
22 service providers and other interested parties to



1 identify emerging needs, provide feedback on program  
2 effectiveness, and provide an opportunity to recommend  
3 improvements to the pilot program.

4 (c) The safe places for youth pilot program shall provide  
5 access to and linkage with services and programs needed by  
6 youth, including but not limited to:

- 7 (1) Domestic violence prevention or reduction;
- 8 (2) Violence and trauma recovery and support;
- 9 (3) Human trafficking resources and prevention;
- 10 (4) Suicide prevention;
- 11 (5) Resources targeted at teenagers, including teen  
12 pregnancy prevention;
- 13 (6) Tobacco use cessation;
- 14 (7) Alcohol and substance abuse support;
- 15 (8) Behavioral health counseling and education;
- 16 (9) Assistance for youth to achieve their educational and  
17 vocational goals;
- 18 (10) Dating violence prevention; and
- 19 (11) Other relationship-building and life skills.

20 (d) Service providers may provide services to a consenting  
21 minor if the service provider reasonably believes that:

- 1           (1) The minor understands the significant benefits,  
2                   responsibilities, risks, and limits of the service  
3                   provider and its services and can communicate an  
4                   informed consent;
- 5           (2) The minor understands the requirements and rules of  
6                   the service provider and services;
- 7           (3) The service provider and services are necessary to  
8                   ensure the minor's safety and well-being; and
- 9           (4) The service provider has conducted an assessment and  
10                   determined that the minor does not pose a danger to  
11                   the minor's self or to other persons at the safe  
12                   place. If the service provider determines that  
13                   admitting the minor poses a danger, the service  
14                   provider shall report the matter to an appropriate  
15                   agency.
- 16           (e) A minor may consent to the services of a service  
17                   provider and related services if the minor understands the  
18                   benefits, responsibilities, risks, and limits of the service  
19                   provider and services and the minor agrees to adhere to the  
20                   service provider's rules and cooperate and participate in those  
21                   services recommended by the service provider; provided that the  
22                   minor is at least fourteen years of age and:

- 1           (1) The service provider has not, despite reasonable
- 2                   efforts, been able to contact the minor's parent,
- 3                   legal guardian, or legal custodian;
- 4           (2) The service provider has made contact with the minor's
- 5                   parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian, and the
- 6                   minor's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian has
- 7                   refused to give consent and, based on the information
- 8                   available to the service provider, the service
- 9                   provider reasonably believes that the minor would
- 10                  incur harm, or would be subject to threatened harm, if
- 11                  the minor returned immediately to the home of the
- 12                  parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian; or
- 13           (3) The minor has refused to provide contact information
- 14                  for the minor's parent, legal guardian, or legal
- 15                  custodian, and the service provider reasonably
- 16                  believes that the minor would incur harm, or would be
- 17                  subject to threatened harm, if the minor returned
- 18                  immediately to the home of the parent, legal guardian,
- 19                  or legal custodian.
- 20           (f) Any consent given by a minor to a service provider
- 21 shall be valid and binding for the duration of the period with

1 respect to all services, as if the minor had reached the age of  
2 majority.

3 (g) The consent given by the minor to the service provider  
4 shall not be subject to later disaffirmance by reason of the  
5 minor's minority.

6 (h) Service providers shall document in writing the  
7 efforts made to contact the minor's parent, legal guardian, or  
8 legal custodian.

9 (i) Service providers shall report any suspected child  
10 abuse or neglect to the department of human services or the  
11 applicable police department in accordance with section 350-1.1,  
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 (j) The office of youth services shall coordinate a  
14 comprehensive network of safe places for youth to assist youth  
15 in obtaining the advice and guidance they need.

16 (k) The safe places for youth pilot program shall cease to  
17 exist on June 30, 2019.

18 (l) For the purposes of this Act:

19 "Minor" means a person less than eighteen years of age.

20 "Safe places" means physical and virtual places of safety  
21 for youth.



1 "Service provider" means any organization designated by the  
2 safe places for youth coordinator as a safe place for youth and  
3 provides access to and linkage with services and programs listed  
4 under subsection (c).

5 "Young adult" means a person of at least eighteen but less  
6 than twenty-one years of age.

7 "Youth" means a person of at least fourteen but less than  
8 twenty-one years of age.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
12 the position of safe places for youth program coordinator and  
13 temporary housing opportunities for youth who participate in the  
14 pilot program.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
16 youth services of the department of human services for the  
17 purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.





**Report Title:**

Office of Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services. Establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator. Allows minors age fourteen and older to consent to enter the safe places program. Makes an appropriation. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB2211 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

