
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 youth can access
13 for safety and to obtain advice, guidance, and access
14 to programs and services;
- 15 (2) Establish the position of safe places for youth
16 program coordinator;
- 17 (3) Establish rules to allow minors to consent to enter
18 the safe places for youth program; and
- 19 (4) Appropriate funds for the safe places for youth
20 program coordinator position and residential options
21 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 are eligible for
7 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; and
- 7 (3) The service provider and services are necessary to
8 ensure the minor's safety and well-being; and the
9 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



1 minor is at least fourteen years of age; and provided further
2 that:

3 (1) The service provider has not, despite reasonable
4 efforts, been able to contact the minor's parent,
5 legal guardian, or legal custodian;

6 (2) The service provider has made contact with the minor's
7 parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian, and the
8 minor's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian has
9 refused to give consent and, based on the information
10 available to the service provider, the service
11 provider reasonably believes that the minor would
12 incur harm, or would be subject to threatened harm, if
13 the minor returned immediately to the home of the
14 parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian; or

15 (3) The minor has refused to provide contact information
16 for the minor's parent, legal guardian, or legal
17 custodian, and the service provider reasonably
18 believes that the minor would incur harm, or would be
19 subject to threatened harm, if the minor returned
20 immediately to the home of the parent, legal guardian,
21 or legal custodian.



1 (f) Any consent given by a minor to a service provider
2 shall be valid and binding for the duration of the period with
3 respect to all services, as if the minor had reached the age of
4 majority.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (l) For the purposes of this Act:

21 "Minor" or "youth" means a person less than eighteen years
22 of age.



1 "Safe places" means physical and virtual places of safety
2 for youth.

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

7 "Young adult" means a person less than twenty-one years of
8 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, 2050.



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 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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