
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
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 two-year safe places for youth pilot program, which
12 will coordinate a network of safe places where youth
13 can access safety and obtain advice, guidance,
14 programs, and services;
- 15 (2) Establish the position of safe places for youth
16 program coordinator; and
- 17 (3) Appropriate funds for the safe places for youth
18 program coordinator position and residential options
19 for the pilot program.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The office of youth services shall
21 coordinate a safe places for youth pilot program in partnership
22 with private organizations. The primary objective of the pilot



1 program shall be to coordinate a network that youth may access
2 for safety and to obtain advice, guidance, programs, and
3 services. All youth are eligible for services at the safe
4 places.

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

7 (1) Coordinate the safe places for youth network;

8 (2) Partner with an entity to maintain an updated listing
9 of safe places statewide;

10 (3) Provide ongoing training of organizations designated
11 as safe places for youth in areas including emergency
12 response and trauma;

13 (4) Partner with the department of education, Hawaii state
14 student council, peer education programs, private
15 schools, and other youth services organizations to
16 build awareness of the safe places for youth network;
17 and

18 (5) Convene an annual meeting of safe places for youth
19 organizations and other interested parties to identify
20 emerging needs, provide feedback on program
21 effectiveness, and provide an opportunity to recommend
22 improvements to the pilot program.



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

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

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

20 (e) The safe places for youth pilot program shall cease to
21 exist on June 30, 2015.

22 (f) For the purposes of this Act:

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

3 "Youth" means any person twenty-one years of age or
4 younger.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2014-2015 for the position of safe places for youth program
10 coordinator and residential options for the pilot program.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of human services office of youth services for the purposes of
13 this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a two-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. Makes appropriation. Effective July 1, 2050.
(SB391 HD1)

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