
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 youth violence and
2 truancy are a significant problem in many neighborhoods, a
3 problem compounded by a lack of afterschool and school break
4 programs and services. The 2005 Youth Gangs report by the
5 office of youth services noted that the areas with the highest
6 levels of reported gang involvement also had low reported levels
7 of community and family involvement. The report also
8 recommended geographically focused interventions drawing on
9 community strengths and resources where possible, and additional
10 data gathering on best practice implementation.

11 The National Center for School Engagement notes that
12 extended learning opportunities and programs to support
13 attendance, academics, and personal development through after
14 school programs and summer enrichment programs are especially
15 important for students at risk of school failure because they
16 fill the "gap time" with constructive and engaging activities.



1 The legislature further finds that the office of youth
2 services within the department of human services provides
3 comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to
4 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The
5 legislature finds that the objectives of a positive youth
6 development program are supported by the office of youth
7 services.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require the office of youth
9 services to coordinate a positive youth development program to
10 provide after school and school break programs for middle and
11 high school students focused on prevention and intervention and
12 appropriate funds for that purpose.

13 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning on July 1, 2016, the office of
14 youth services shall implement a positive youth development
15 program in partnership with private organizations. The
16 objective of the program shall be to establish, support, and
17 enhance after-school and school break programs focused on
18 positive youth development and evaluate the programs for
19 efficacy and impact. The office may enter into contracts with
20 high schools, individuals, organizations, or other entities to
21 provide after-school positive youth development programs to



1 middle and high school students. All youth are eligible for the
2 program's services.

3 (b) Both preventative and intervention targeted programs
4 may be funded, including:

5 (1) Preventative programs and services such as mentoring,
6 tutoring, family strengthening, and culture based
7 programing, mediation, vocational training, gender
8 programming, and the operation of drop-in centers
9 providing such services; and

10 (2) Intervention programs and services such as aggressive
11 outreach, intensive case management, anger management
12 training, intensive mentoring, intensive group
13 mediation, and positive resiliency building.

14 (c) The office shall:

15 (1) Establish criteria and application, selection, and
16 award processes for funding after-school and school
17 break positive youth development programs;

18 (2) Monitor the after-school and school break programs at
19 each program site;

20 (3) Ensure that each positive youth development program
21 meets contractual expectations; and



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1 (4) Partner with the department of education, police
 2 department, peer education programs, private schools,
 3 and other youth services organizations to build
 4 awareness of the positive youth development programs
 5 for youth.

6 (d) For the purposes of this Act:

7 "Youth" means a person eighteen years of age or younger.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much
 10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
 11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 12 2016-2017 for the establishment and operation of the positive
 13 youth development program.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Kal Rhoad
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JAN 29 2015

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Report Title:

Office of Youth Services; Department of Human Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a program within the office of youth services for positive youth development through after school and school break programs.

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