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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the  
2 highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the  
3 nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate of chronic unsheltered  
4 homeless per capita of any state. Currently, an estimated 7,620  
5 people are living on the streets and in shelters in Hawaii.  
6 Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach using  
7 interventions targeted to the particular characteristics of the  
8 population being served.

9           The legislature further finds that outreach is a critical  
10 piece of the coordinated entry system. The legislature finds  
11 that more strategic, coordinated outreach is needed to  
12 assertively serve the growing percentage of homeless persons who  
13 are not living in shelter programs. As the counties and the  
14 State increase enforcement efforts in parks and public areas,  
15 outreach to homeless persons becomes even more significant.  
16 State efforts for outreach have focused on individual adults and  
17 families with children.



1           The legislature also finds that unaccompanied homeless  
2 youth are often hard to locate and identify and are particularly  
3 vulnerable to exploitation. Between 2000 and 2010, over thirty  
4 per cent of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii were for running away  
5 from home. Outreach is especially critical to help newly  
6 homeless youth navigate the social services system to find safe  
7 alternatives to homelessness. Youth service providers report  
8 that the number of homeless youth has been increasing each year.  
9 The legislature further finds that the State needs to address  
10 youth homelessness to prevent these homeless youth from becoming  
11 homeless adults.

12           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
13 department of human services, including the office of youth  
14 services, to provide additional outreach services.

15           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for  
18 additional outreach to homeless individuals and families with  
19 children.

20           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
21 human services for the purposes of this Act.



1           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for  
4 outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth.

5           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
6 youth services of the department of human services for the  
7 purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

Homeless; Outreach; Youth; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Office of Youth Services for additional outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

