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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a growing  
2 youth gang problem in Hawaii. This is evidenced by a statewide  
3 increase in gang membership as well as an increase in gang  
4 related graffiti, violence, and criminal activity. While ethnic  
5 and socio-economic profiles have changed over the past three  
6 decades, the dynamics and causes of gang activity remain the  
7 same.

8           Since youth gang members are primarily of school age, gang  
9 related activities may impact school campuses as well. It is  
10 reported that gang members illicitly engage in criminal activity  
11 such as distribution and sale of illegal drugs and substances.  
12 It is also reported that members possess weapons and may be  
13 prone to violent behavior, endangering the safety and well-being  
14 of students as well as faculty and school personnel.

15           Gang delinquency tends to appear in communities where  
16 factors of poverty, adolescence, and social disorganization are  
17 present. These are social, economic, and environmental factors



1 that continue to plague communities in Hawaii. Social  
2 disorganization is activated in communities that have high rates  
3 of in-migration, in families that lack the skills or time to  
4 provide adolescents with the support and guidance they need, and  
5 in schools and communities that fail to offer the types of  
6 activities that foster in adolescents a sense of challenge,  
7 purpose, and belonging, and that fail to recognize and  
8 effectively assist youths who are "at-risk". When youths turn  
9 to gangs for support and recognition, their destructive behavior  
10 is an expression of their desperate need for help from the  
11 social disorganization they are facing.

12 Clearly, the existence of gangs is but a symptom of a  
13 larger set of problems that our communities experience. The  
14 legislature finds that the development of a coordinated youth  
15 gang response system is essential to maintaining control of the  
16 gang situation. While this response system must be community-  
17 based, it must also be system-wide and linked to schools, law  
18 enforcement, courts, parents, government agencies, community  
19 agencies and organizations, and community leaders.

20 A coordinated gang response system includes:

21 (1) Effective intelligence and law enforcement;



- 1           (2)   Sharing of information;
- 2           (3)   Establishment of public awareness programs;
- 3           (4)   Development of community and school-based intervention
- 4                   and prevention programs; and
- 5           (5)   Evaluation and research.

6           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
7 development of a youth gang response system coordinated by the  
8 department of the attorney general that incorporates the  
9 critical elements of law enforcement and intelligence, training  
10 and community awareness, community intervention, community  
11 prevention, information, and evaluation.

12           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
14 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
15 development of:

- 16           (1)   A statewide information system and information
- 17                   clearinghouse on youth gangs;
- 18           (2)   Public education on the youth gang problem;
- 19           (3)   Community support groups to help citizens confront and
- 20                   deal with the problems of youth gangs;



1           (4) A statewide parent education program for parents and  
2                    caregivers of suspected or adjudicated gang members;  
3                    and

4           (5) A statewide law enforcement task force focused on  
5                    resolving and preventing youth gang criminal  
6                    activities.

7           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

9           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
11 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the police  
12 department of the counties of Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai  
13 to monitor gang activities and establish new gang prevention  
14 strategies and projects.

15           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the police  
16 departments of the respective counties for the purposes of this  
17 Act.

18           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
20 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the office of



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1 youth services to provide and develop prevention and  
2 intervention services and programs statewide for youth at risk.

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

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
8 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to commission the  
9 center for youth research of the University of Hawaii to conduct  
10 an evaluation of the youth gang response system created pursuant  
11 to this Act.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
13 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
16 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the department  
17 of education to develop school based gang and drug prevention  
18 and intervention programs initiated by the Honolulu police  
19 department in the Kalihi-Palama community. The programs shall  
20 be implemented in schools in the communities of Wahiawa,



1 Waipahu, Waianae, and Palolo, and statewide in schools with  
2 identified gang related activities.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
7 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to the department  
8 of the attorney general to provide personnel, equipment, office  
9 space, and monitoring trips to the neighbor islands in its role  
10 as the overall coordinator of the youth gang response system  
11 established pursuant to this Act.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
13 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 8. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance of any  
15 appropriation made by this Act as of the close of business on  
16 June 30, 2018, shall lapse to the credit of the general fund.

17 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Youth Gangs; Coordinated Response; Prevention and Intervention;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for a coordinated gang response system to include the police departments, the office of youth services, the department of education, and the department of the attorney general. Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to conduct an evaluation of the youth gang response system created by this Act.

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