
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 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for:

- 13 (1) The office of youth services to provide and develop
14 prevention and intervention services and programs
15 statewide for youth at risk; and
16 (2) The county police departments to monitor gang
17 activities and establish new gang prevention
18 strategies and projects.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the



1 office of 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 office of
4 youth services for the purposes of this Act.

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 2016-2017 for the
8 police departments of the counties of Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui,
9 and Kauai to monitor gang activities and establish new gang
10 prevention strategies and projects.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the police
12 departments of the respective counties for the purposes of this
13 Act.

14 SECTION 4. 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 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



Report Title:

Youth Gangs; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the development of prevention and intervention services and programs statewide for youth at risk, and to monitor gang activities and establish new gang prevention strategies and projects. (HB1987 HD1)

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