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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  
18 that continue to plague communities in Hawaii. Social



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

11 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Require the office of youth services to coordinate the  
13 development of a statewide youth gang information  
14 system;
- 15 (2) Appropriate funds for the office of youth services to  
16 provide and develop prevention and intervention  
17 services and programs statewide for youth at risk; and
- 18 (3) Appropriate funds to the county police departments to  
19 monitor gang activities and establish new gang  
20 prevention strategies and projects statewide.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§352D- Youth gang information program. The office of  
5 youth services shall coordinate the development of:

- 6 (1) A statewide information system and information  
7 clearinghouse on youth gangs;  
8 (2) Public education on the youth gang problem;  
9 (3) Community support groups to help citizens confront and  
10 deal with the problems of youth gangs;  
11 (4) A statewide parent education program for parents and  
12 caregivers of suspected or adjudicated gang members;  
13 and  
14 (5) A statewide law enforcement task force focused on  
15 resolving and preventing youth gang criminal  
16 activities."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for  
20 the office of youth services to provide and develop prevention



1 and intervention services and programs statewide for youth at  
2 risk.

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

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to  
8 monitor gang activities and establish new gang prevention  
9 strategies and projects statewide and to be distributed as  
10 follows:

- 11 (1) County of Hawaii, police department \$ ;
- 12 (2) County of Kauai, police department \$ ;
- 13 (3) County of Maui, police department \$ ; and
- 14 (4) City and County of Honolulu, police department
- 15 \$ .

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

19 SECTION 5. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance of any  
20 appropriation made by this Act as of the close of business on  
21 June 30, 2018, shall lapse to the credit of the general fund.



1 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.

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**Report Title:**

Youth Gangs; Prevention and Intervention; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a youth gang information program in the office of youth services. 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. Takes effect on 7/1/2060. (SD1)

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

