
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 youth violence is a
2 growing concern in Hawaii, particularly violence and juvenile
3 delinquency associated with gang membership. In addition,
4 homicide, suicide, aggravated assaults, and traffic accidents
5 due to alcohol consumption by underage youth represent large
6 costs for the State. In 2010, overall youth violence cost the
7 State over \$109,000,000, with \$28,000,000 in costs resulting
8 from youth property crime alone. In 2013, the average cost to
9 incarcerate a youth at the Hawaii youth correctional facility
10 was over \$199,000. Unfortunately, three-quarters of all youth
11 leaving the facility were re-adjudicated as delinquents or
12 convicted as adults within three years.

13 Consequently, the legislature finds that a multi-pronged
14 approach should be taken with programs that have the expertise
15 and experience to reach out and establish relationships and help
16 promote education, self-esteem, individual growth and
17 development, leadership, and responsibility. Furthermore,



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1 helping to redirect and empower lives from lives of violence and
2 destruction to lives of constructive behavior will help
3 immensely to solidify and secure school and community safety.
4 Such programs will be able to establish strong relationships and
5 partnerships with schools and community leaders to help
6 coordinate appropriate services required for the youth at risk.
7 The legislature further finds that this multi-pronged approach
8 should incorporate an in-school centered group counseling
9 program that will help address the deep rooted issues such as
10 aggressive behavior and violence to ensure that youths who are
11 most at risk are being identified and served in their respective
12 communities and schools. Areas such as Kalihi, Waipahu,
13 Wahiawa, Ewa Beach, Kapolei, and Waianae are strong target areas
14 to reach out to.

15 The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to help reduce youth
16 violence and delinquency in the State by appropriating funds to
17 the department of human services to fund the operational costs
18 of an organization that has the expertise and experience in
19 providing specific therapeutic prevention and mental health
20 programs for high risk youth.



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1 SECTION 2. 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 to fund
 4 operational costs to provide therapeutic prevention and mental
 5 health programs including in-school centered group counseling
 6 for high risk youth.

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

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Youth; Mental Health; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to fund operational costs to provide therapeutic prevention and mental health programs for high risk youth.

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