

JAN 19 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States
2 Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2016 Annual
3 Homeless Assessment Report to Congress found that homelessness
4 increased by 6.6 per cent in Hawaii from 2015 to 2016. During
5 that same period, homelessness declined by three per cent
6 nationwide.

7 The legislature further finds that while the 2017 State of
8 Hawaii homeless point-in-time count recorded an overall twelve
9 per cent decrease statewide in the total number of unsheltered
10 homeless, the 2017 homeless youth count is nearly identical to
11 that of 2016. For unaccompanied youth, categorized as
12 individuals twenty-four years and younger without any
13 accompanying adults twenty-five years of age or older, three
14 hundred nineteen were counted as homeless. Within that group of
15 unaccompanied youth, forty-two were parents with a combined
16 total of sixty-eight children. Of the unaccompanied youth, a
17 staggering eighty-two per cent were unsheltered.



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1 The legislature further finds that since 1981, the Hawaii
2 Youth Services Network, a nonprofit statewide coalition of
3 youth-serving organizations, has conducted a statewide runaway
4 and homeless youth partnership program that provides street
5 outreach, emergency shelter, and transitional living space to
6 runaway and homeless youth.

7 The homeless youth partnership also operates a transitional
8 living program to provide safe, stable housing for youth ages
9 sixteen to twenty-one for up to eighteen months, during which
10 time the homeless youth partnership assists the youth to meet
11 educational and employment goals and learn skills for adult
12 living. The transitional living program teaches managing
13 budgets, nutrition, and health care. Partner organizations
14 involved in the transitional living program include Hale Kipa in
15 Honolulu, Maui Youth and Family Services on Maui, and the
16 Salvation Army Family Intervention Services on Hawaii Island.

17 For the past twenty years, the Hawaii Youth Services
18 Network has received federal grant funding to support services
19 of the transitional living program through the federal
20 Administration for Children and Families, a division of the
21 United States Department of Health and Human Services. The



1 current federal grant ends on April 30, 2018, and future funding
2 is uncertain. Specifically, in June 2017, Hawaii Youth Services
3 Network and other grantees of the Administration for Children
4 and Families were informed that they cannot apply to renew grant
5 funding in the 2017 funding competition. There is also
6 uncertainty whether there will be funding at all for 2018.

7 Should there be 2018 funding, the new grant will not become
8 available until September 30, 2018, which means that the Hawaii
9 Youth Services Network and its partners face a minimum five-
10 month lapse in funding for the transitional living program.

11 This gap in critical funding will likely result in the temporary
12 shutdown of the operations of the transitional living program.

13 The legislature further finds that the federal funding gap
14 necessitates an appropriation of \$100,000 in state grant funds
15 to carry the program through the five-month lapse.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
17 Hawaii Youth Services Network to provide short-term funding to
18 address the anticipated loss of federal funds that support the
19 runaway and homeless youth partnership's transitional living
20 program.



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1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 as a grant
4 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the Hawaii
5 Youth Services Network's transitional living program.

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

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.
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S.B. NO. 2302

Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Youth Services; Homelessness; Hawaii Youth Services Network; Grant; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds as a grant to the Hawaii Youth Services Network's transitional housing program, benefiting homeless youth, to bridge a temporary gap in federal funding.

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