S.B. NO. ³²³⁵ S.D. 1 H.D. 1

C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

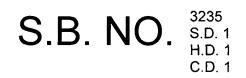
RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one in ten young
 adults who are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five
 years, and at least one in thirty adolescents between the ages
 of thirteen and seventeen, experience some form of homelessness
 in which the young adult or adolescent is unaccompanied by a
 parent or guardian over the course of a year.

7 The legislature further finds that among homeless youth, 8 sixty-nine per cent report mental health problems; thirty-three 9 per cent have once been part of the foster care system; and 10 fifty per cent have been in the juvenile justice system, in jail 11 or detention. Moreover, sixty-two per cent of lesbian, gay, 12 bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth 13 report being physically harmed while experiencing homelessness, 14 while forty-seven per cent of non-LGBTQ youth reported being 15 physically harmed while homeless.

16 The legislature also finds that runaway and homeless youth 17 are vulnerable to multiple threats, including having unmet basic 18 food and shelter needs, untreated mental health disorders, 2022-3127 SB3235 CD1 SMA-1.doc 1



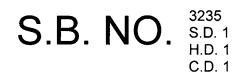
1 substance use, significant disruption to their education, 2 sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus infection, sexual exploitation, physical victimization, and 3 4 suicide. As the consequences faced by homeless youth are vast, 5 coordination among various agencies, including those responsible 6 for the State's child welfare, education, health, human services, and juvenile justice systems, is required to protect 7 8 the State's youth and ensure their safety. 9 The purpose of this Act is to establish an inter-agency 10 safe spaces for youth pilot program to provide safe spaces in 11 each county for youth experiencing homelessness. 12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department

13 of human services for administrative purposes only a safe spaces 14 for youth pilot program, which shall be an inter-agency 15 initiative to provide safe spaces in each county for youth 16 experiencing homelessness.

17 (b) The program shall collaborate with all departments of
18 the State and its political subdivisions that offer services for
19 the purpose of ensuring the well-being of youth in Hawaii,
20 including the department of education, department of health,
21 department of human services, department of public safety, and

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county police departments, to coordinate the identification of
 youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these
 youth at a shelter for homeless youth.

4 (c) The department of human services shall enter into
5 contracts with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for
6 homeless youth. Any nonprofit organization contracted under
7 this subsection shall have the knowledge, experience, and
8 qualifications, including licenses, necessary to operate a
9 shelter for homeless youth.

10 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a
11 shelter for homeless youth contracted under subsection (c) may
12 admit a youth into the shelter's care for up to ninety days
13 without the consent of the youth's parent or guardian.

(e) The department of human services shall submit a report
of its findings and recommendations pertaining to the safe
spaces for youth pilot program to the legislature no later than
thirty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
2025. The report shall include:

- 19 (1) A record of pilot program activities and20 accomplishments;
- 21

(2) A recommendation on whether to extend the program; and



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S.B. NO. 3235 S.D. 1 H.D. 1 C.D. 1

1 Any proposed legislation. (3) 2 (f) The department of human services shall adopt rules 3 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, necessary to 4 carry out the purposes of this Act. 5 For the purposes of this Act: (q) 6 "Shelter for homeless youth" means a facility that operates 7 to receive youth twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 8 provide youth with services, including: 9 Overnight lodging and supervision; (1) 10 (2) Hot meals and hot showers; 11 Access to medical and behavioral health services; and (3) 12 (4) Education and employment support. 13 "Youth" means an individual who is at least fourteen years 14 of age but under twenty-five years of age. 15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000 or so much 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to fund 18 the safe spaces for youth pilot program, including funding for 19 one full time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position and administrative

20 costs for the pilot program.

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

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, and4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.





Report Title: Department of Human Services; Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program; Homeless Youth; Shelter; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services. Requires the pilot program to collaborate with all state and county departments that offer services to ensure the well-being of youth in Hawaii to coordinate the identification of youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these youth at a shelter for homeless youth. Requires the Department of Human Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth. Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2025. (CD1)

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

