

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REPORT ON THE CULTURAL AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AT THE KAWAILOA YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness, poverty, and mental health are among  
2 the most pressing social issues within the State; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, ten percent of Hawaii's homeless population is  
5 comprised of individuals under the age of eighteen years; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, forty-four percent of homeless youth report having  
8 spent time in jail or a juvenile detention center; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, "opportunity youth", sometimes referred to as  
11 disconnected youth, are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-  
12 four and are neither in school nor working; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, state-sponsored working groups and recent reports  
15 have shown that community-based support centers for opportunity  
16 youth, or homeless or formerly incarcerated youth, substantially  
17 reduce:

18  
19 (1) The likelihood that youth are incarcerated;

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21 (2) The amount of time they spend incarcerated; and

22  
23 (3) The likelihood that they experience homelessness; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii hui<sup>1</sup> at the  
26 Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center partners with state  
27 and nonprofit agencies to transform punitive modalities of  
28 treatment and incarceration with effective therapeutic  
29 community-based programs rooted in indigenous knowledge systems  
30 and cultural practices; and

31



1 WHEREAS, expanding state and private sector collaboration  
2 and implementing proven and effective therapeutic and cultural  
3 methods to promote youth wellness can help the State reduce  
4 homelessness and the negative effects of incarceration; now,  
5 therefore,

6  
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
10 Human Services is requested to report on the positive effects of  
11 cultural and therapeutic services provided by community-based  
12 organizations at the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center;  
13 and

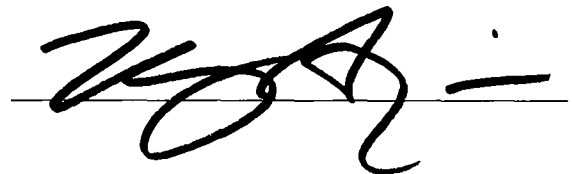
14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
16 include plans for expanding state and private sector  
17 collaboration to reduce homelessness and the negative effects of  
18 incarceration and promote youth wellness; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
21 Services is requested to submit the report of its findings and  
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
23 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
24 the Regular Session of 2025; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
28 Services.

29  
30  
31

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. A.', is written over a horizontal line.