
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 130, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 130),
2 established a safe spaces for youth pilot program within the
3 department of human services. Act 130 will be repealed on June
4 30, 2025. The office of youth services has worked on planning
5 and developing the safe spaces for youth pilot program and, with
6 appropriations, recommends the pilot program become permanent,
7 and is ready to open the first state-funded shelter for young
8 adults on the island of Hawaii.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

10 (1) Make the safe spaces for youth pilot program a
11 permanent program within the office of youth services;
12 and

13 (2) Provide funding for a permanent safe spaces for youth
14 program in the office of youth services.

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



1 "§352D- Safe spaces for youth program; establishment;
2 reports. (a) There is established within the office of youth
3 services a safe spaces for youth program, which shall provide,
4 subject to the availability of funds, safe spaces in each county
5 for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or at risk
6 of homelessness.

7 (b) The program shall collaborate with all departments of
8 the State and its political subdivisions that offer services for
9 the purpose of ensuring the well-being of youth and young adults
10 in Hawaii, including the department of education, department of
11 corrections and rehabilitation, department of health, department
12 of human services, department of land and natural resources,
13 department of law enforcement, state office on homelessness and
14 housing solutions, county police departments and other agencies,
15 and judiciary, to coordinate the identification of youth and
16 young adults who are experiencing homelessness, and placement of
17 these youth and young adults at a shelter for homeless youth or
18 young adults.

19 (c) The office of youth services may enter into contracts
20 with nonprofit organizations to provide services for youth or
21 young adults experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of



1 homelessness. Any nonprofit organization contracted under this
2 subsection shall have the knowledge, experience, and
3 qualifications, including licenses as needed for child caring
4 institutions, and other requirements to operate a shelter for
5 homeless youth or young adults experiencing homelessness or at
6 risk of homelessness. Youth under the age of eighteen shall not
7 be sheltered with young adults age eighteen to twenty-four.

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

13 (e) The office shall submit a report pertaining to the
14 safe spaces for youth program to the legislature no later than
15 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

16 (f) The office may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
17 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

18 (g) For the purposes of this section, "shelter for
19 homeless youth or young adults" means a facility that operates
20 to receive youth or young adults twenty-four hours a day, seven



1 days a week, and provide youth or young adults with services,
2 including:

- 3 (1) Overnight lodging and supervision;
4 (2) Hot meals and hot showers;
5 (3) Access to medical and behavioral health services; and
6 (4) Education and employment support."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$871,016 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
10 \$1,841,016 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2026-2027 for a permanent safe spaces for youth program
12 within the office of youth services.

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

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

OYS; Safe Spaces for Youth Program; Homeless Youth and Young Adults; Shelter; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Makes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program permanent within the Office of Youth Services. Requires the program to collaborate with certain state and county departments. Authorizes the Office of Youth Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth or young adults. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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