

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Office of Children and Youth.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 581-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 581-2 General functions, duties, and powers of the director. The director shall have the following principal functions, duties, and powers:

- (1) Serve as the principal official in state government responsible for promoting the coordination of programs and services in behalf of children and youth.
- (2) Oversee, supervise, and direct the performance by his or her subordinates of activities in such areas as planning, evaluation, and coordination of children and youth programs and development of a statewide service delivery network.
- (3) Conduct selected assessment of the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on children and youth and conduct advocacy efforts in their behalf.

- (4) Advise the governor and the legislature on new legislation, programs, and policy initiatives and conduct such liaison as would be required to implement them.
- (5) Serve as a member of advisory boards and regulatory panels of state agencies in such areas as child development programs, social services programs, and health and medical assistance programs.
- (6) Administer funds allocated for the office of children and youth; and apply for, receive, and disburse grants and donations as may otherwise fall within the authority of the office of children and youth; reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred in the conduct of business or on tasks related to information, coordination, and problem resolution for the office of children and youth and the advisory council.
- (7) Serve as a referral agency for complaints of persons regarding services to children and youth, or operations of state and county agencies affecting children and youth, and investigate complaints.
- (8) Adopt, amend, and repeal rules pursuant to chapter 91 for purposes of this chapter.
- (9) Retain such staff as may be necessary for the purposes of this chapter, in conformity with chapters 76 and 77, except for the heads of the three divisions referred to in section 581-4 who shall not be subject to chapters 76 and 77.
- (10) Contract for such services as may be necessary for the purposes of this chapter.
- (11) On a continuing basis, provide initial and continuing orientation as to the goals, functions, and programs of the office to members of the council.
- (12) On a continuing basis, actively and enthusiastically seek the input of council members on all matters pertaining to the functions of the office.
- (13) On a continuing basis, transmit minutes of the council to the governor and to the chairpersons of the legislative committees responsible for children and youth programs."

SECTION 2. Section 581-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 581-3 General duties of the office of children and youth. The office of children and youth shall:

- (1) Establish statewide goals and objectives relating to children and youth in the State.
- (2) Study the facts concerning the needs of children and youth in the State through adequate research studies, such research to be carried on whenever possible through the departments or agencies of the state and county governments responsible for providing services in the fields of health, education, social welfare, employment, and related services. Where such research cannot be done within such established agencies, it may be carried out by this office. The office may develop pilot programs when no other public or private agency is able to develop such programs to fill a particular gap or critical need area.
- (3) Review legislation pertaining to children and youth and appropriations

- made for services in their behalf in such fields as health, child guidance, social service, education, recreation, child labor, and juvenile delinquency and its prevention, and consider and present revisions and additions needed and report to the governor and to the legislature regarding such legislation.
- (4) Evaluate the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of all services for children and youth within the State.
 - (5) Conduct selected monitoring and promote the coordination of the operations and the operating policies affecting children and youth of all state departments and agencies responsible for providing services for children and youth, including, without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, the department of health, the department of social services and housing, the department of education, and the department of labor and industrial relations, and report such facts and the office's recommendations to the governor and to the legislature. The executive heads of all such departments and agencies shall make available to the office of children and youth such information as the office deems necessary for the effective discharge of its duties under this chapter. The county departments and agencies shall provide access to information which the office deems necessary for the effective discharge of its duties under this chapter.
 - (6) Maintain a data and information storage and retrieval system with respect to children and youth and related family information and maintain contacts with local, state and federal officials and agencies concerned with planning for children and youth.
 - (7) Encourage and foster local community action in behalf of children through the local committees on children and youth.
 - (8) Assist in promoting plans and programs for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency."

SECTION 3. Section 581-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 581-12 Council, composition, chairperson. The council shall be composed of twenty-one members appointed by the governor subject to section 26-34, except as provided in this section. Members shall have had training, experience, or special knowledge concerning programs for children and youth.

Of the twenty-one members:

- (1) Six shall be ex officio voting members to consist of the director of social services, the chairperson of the board of education, the director of labor and industrial relations, the director of health, the senior judge of the family court of the first circuit and the chairperson of the board of regents, University of Hawaii.
- (2) Fifteen shall be regular members:
 - (A) One public officer from each of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, and Kauai to be appointed from a list of four such officials submitted by the mayor of each county.
 - (B) Four members shall be representatives of private organizations which are engaged in the planning or delivery of services to children or youth.

- (C) Seven members shall be citizens, four of whom shall be under the age of thirty at the time of appointment. Of such members, there shall be one representative from each county who shall be nominated by the mayor for gubernatorial appointment.

Appointments to the council shall be on a staggered basis.”

SECTION 4. Section 581-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“**Sec. 581-14 Ex officio members and regular members, attendance by, substitute for.** If for any reason any ex officio member or regular member is not able to attend meetings of the council, the ex officio or regular member shall designate a substitute authorized to act in his or her place to attend in the stead of the ex officio or regular member. For ex officio members the substitute shall be at a deputy director level or an equivalent position which reports directly to the ex officio member cited in section 581-12. The substitute individual shall be entitled to participate in all actions and business of the council with all rights, authority, and privileges of the appointed member, including full voting rights.”

SECTION 5. Section 2, Act 187, Session Laws of Hawaii 1976, is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 2. If House Bill No. 2016 or Senate Bill No. 1889† relating to the establishment and operation of an office of children and youth is enacted during the regular session of 1976:

- (1) Those functions relating to children and youth in chapter 27C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, except for section 27C-2 (c) (4);
- (2) All records, equipment, machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents, maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used, acquired, or held by the youth affairs component; and
- (3) The sum of \$8,200 appropriated for the office of information and youth affairs,

shall be transferred to the office of children and youth to coincide with the effective date of the creation of the office of children and youth.”

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.*

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 17, 1980.)

*The text has been edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5, authorizing omission of the brackets, bracketed material, and underscoring.

†So in original. Probably should read “1899”.