

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 4, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 27 HD 1 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**
Hearing: April 5, 2023, 9:55 a.m.
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this measure, provides additional comments and respectfully requests total appropriations of \$2,468,556 for FY24 and \$4,071,016 for FY25 for the Safe Spaces Pilot Program.

PURPOSE: This bill relates to the state budget.

The OYS appreciates the opportunity to provide information on Act 130 Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program and related Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §352D-7, Youth Service Centers. Both providing similar shelter, mental health and educational resources to youth in need.

The purpose of these youth service centers was to meet youth where they were at, and to provide a 'one-stop' shop of services to meet their needs and prevent delinquency that would result in them moving into the juvenile justice system. The vision of these centers is to provide comprehensive community outreach, programs for community-oriented family support, group and residential care, shelters, mental health counseling, comprehensive intake and assessment services, long-term case management, and a continuum of support and treatment services. Due to lack of fiscal support, youth service centers as they were envisioned were not implemented in the counties of Hawaii, Maui or Kauai.

In 2022, the passing of Act 130, SLH 2022 authorized the Department of Human Services to establish an inter-agency Youth Safe Spaces Pilot Program to provide shelter to homeless youth; including:

- (1) Overnight lodging and supervision,
- (2) Hot meals and hot showers,
- (3) Access to medical and behavioral health services, and
- (4) Education, and vocational support to homeless youth.

The objectives of the Safe Spaces Pilot Program overlap with those of youth service centers. DHS directed the appropriation to HMS 501 (In-community youth programs) with the Office of Youth Services.

An inventory of short-term beds shows that there are 104 beds for minors across all counties and 40 young adult beds on Oahu only. There are currently no specifically young adult shelter beds on Maui, Hawaii or Kauai. The current number of beds for both populations does not adequately shelter homeless youth.

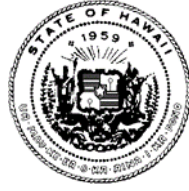
The minimum cost to operate one emergency shelter is estimated at \$800,000 annually. Variance in costs depends on the location, facility costs, staffing and specific services offered. The OYS had originally requested \$4,496,870 to fund two shelters on Oahu, and one on Maui, Hawaii and Kauai and other programmatic and administration costs including two positions. Governor Ige's budget included FY24: \$868,556 and FY25: \$871,016 for program, administration and one position. This appropriation will not provide for the opening of additional shelters.

The OYS respectfully requests consideration for an additional appropriation for the Safe Spaces Pilot Program. Given estimated procurement and shelter opening delays of six (6) months for FY24, the OYS requests total appropriations of \$2,468,556 for FY24 and \$4,071,016 for FY25. This will allow OYS to contract for services to open one additional shelter on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai.

Without additional appropriation, the OYS will not be able to implement the Safe Spaces Pilot Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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April 4, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 27 HD1](#) - RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Hearing: April 5, 2023, 9:55 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, requests amendments, and defers to the Office of Youth Services.

PURPOSE: This bill relates to the state budget. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

DHS requests that the Committee consider adding the following items that are the subject matter of several bills that have not been scheduled for their final hearings or have not been included in HB300 HD1. Additionally, we are uncertain whether HB 300 HD1 SD1 includes these items.

- **Funds for Safe Spaces for Youth: [HB 223 HD1](#) - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.**

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) requests \$2,648,556 for fiscal year 2024 and \$4,071,016 for fiscal year 2025. OYS submitted budget requests and administration measures requesting funds to implement the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot program established in DHS by Act 130, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. HB 223 HD1 replaced the administration HB 1069 and SB 1367. Without sufficient funds, OYS will not be able to comprehensively plan, develop, or implement the pilot program for youth experiencing homelessness.

- **Additional funds to Child Welfare Services: SB 398 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE.**

DHS requests \$6,550,000 for Child Welfare Services. In SB 398 SD1 HD1, DHS requested appropriations that mirrored those included in vetoed measure [HB 2424 \(2022\)](#). These requests were a part of the department's executive budget request but were not included in either Ige or Green budgets though these items are addressed in SB 398.

- \$8,000,000 or so much thereof for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the procurement of contracted services to provide additional support, resources, and monitoring of families receiving benefits from the State's adoption assistance program and permanency assistance program, for the purposes of assisting with family strengthening and the maintenance of a safe home environment for adopted children. The sums shall be expended by the department of human services, provided that:
 - (1) \$1,000,000 shall be expended for the development and maintenance of necessary information technology systems, including the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions;
 - (2) \$1,200,000 shall be expended to increase compensation to fill vacancies and retain employees in existing child welfare services branch investigator, case manager, and social worker positions; provided that any increase in compensation shall be subject to collective bargaining with the objective of expeditiously filling all vacancies;
 - (3) \$800,000 shall be expended for the department of human services to contract with a third party for enhanced permanency support services, including additional training for resource caregivers, wellness visits within a year of adoption or guardianship of children formerly in foster care, respite care, and enhanced supportive services to assist with family strengthening and maintenance of a safe home environment for adopted children;
 - (4) \$100,000 shall be expended for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) planner or project specialist position to administer and monitor additional service contracts and assist with additional service coordination, data collection, and analysis of the new program; and
 - (5) \$250,000 shall be expended for the Malama Ohana working group.

Item (2) is included in HB 300 HD1, and item (5) is included in SB 295.

- **DHS requests a proviso to amend Act 317, SLH 2022, as addressed in HB 225 HD2 SD1.**

DHS proposed administration measures HB 1067/ SB 1365 Relating to Act 317, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. [HB 225 HD2 SD1](#)- RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES somewhat mirrors the administration measures that will allow DHS to spend the \$80,000 appropriated in Act 317, SLH 2022, so that DHS can seek federal matching funds. However, as currently drafted, Act 317, SLH 2022, DHS cannot seek available matching funds. Therefore, DHS requests the following proviso:

Act 317, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, is amended as follows:

1. By amending section 2 to read:

"SECTION 2. (a) The child welfare services branch of the department of human services shall develop a [~~modern case management software solution that is compatible with existing child welfare technology.~~] comprehensive child welfare information system.

(b) The department shall contract with [~~a~~] qualified child welfare software [~~provider~~] providers or procure available software to develop the [~~case management software solution,~~] comprehensive child welfare information system."

2. By amending section 3 to read:

"SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$80,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the development of a [~~case management~~

~~software solution]~~ comprehensive child welfare information system by the child welfare services branch of the department of human services pursuant to this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this Act~~[-]~~; provided that the appropriation made by this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made; provided further that all moneys from the appropriation that are unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.