
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children,
2 particularly young children, are the most vulnerable during, and
3 at times victimized by, homelessness. While many children
4 develop some resiliency to their situation and are able to
5 overcome the ravages of homelessness, the deficits of
6 homelessness often lead to poor health, exposure to violence,
7 poor academic performance, and a lack of positive social
8 interactions.

9 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the negative impact
10 of homelessness on children by establishing a task force to
11 coordinate resources to benefit children who are homeless.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a task force to
13 coordinate public and private resources to benefit homeless
14 children.

15 (b) The president of the senate and the speaker of the
16 house of representatives shall convene the task force. The task
17 force shall:



- 1 (1) Be co-chaired by the chair of the senate human
2 services and public housing committee and the chair of
3 the house human services and housing committee; and
- 4 (2) Include:
- 5 (A) The superintendent of education or the
6 superintendent of education's designee;
- 7 (B) The director of health or the director of
8 health's designee;
- 9 (C) The director of human services or the director of
10 human services' designee;
- 11 (D) Four members representing the four counties
12 appointed by the mayor of each county;
- 13 (E) Four members representing not-for-profit
14 organizations that serve Hawaii's homeless
15 families, two appointed by the president of the
16 senate and two appointed by the speaker of the
17 house of representatives;
- 18 (F) The chairs of the senate and house education
19 committees;
- 20 (G) The chairs of the senate and house health
21 committees; and



1 (H) Two individuals who are homeless, one appointed
2 by the president of the senate and one appointed
3 by the speaker of the house of representatives.

4 (c) The task force shall establish findings and develop
5 recommendations on how the State can coordinate public and
6 private resources to benefit homeless children.

7 (d) The task force shall submit an interim report,
8 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session,
10 and shall submit a final report, including its findings and
11 recommendations and any proposed legislation, to the legislature
12 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2011
13 regular session.

14 SECTION 3. (a) There is established within the state
15 treasury the kokua na keiki special fund to be administered and
16 expended by the department of human services, and into which
17 shall be deposited:

18 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature into the fund;
19 and

20 (2) Any contributions by private entities.

21 (b) The moneys in the special fund shall be used by the
22 department of human services to:



- 1 (1) Establish and hire a homelessness coordinator
2 position; and
- 3 (2) Establish and hire one support staff position to
4 assist the homelessness coordinator.
- 5 (c) The moneys in the special fund may also be used by the
6 department of human services to provide grants for innovative
7 programs that benefit homeless children or that help coordinate
8 services for the benefit of homeless children.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000 for fiscal
11 year 2007-2008 and the same sum for fiscal year 2008-2009 to be
12 paid into the kokua na keiki special fund.

13 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the kokua na keiki
14 special fund the sum of \$750,000 or so much thereof as may be
15 necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
17 purpose described in section 3.

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

20 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
21 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2010; provided that sections 4
22 and 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Children

Description:

Establishes a task force to coordinate resources for homeless children. Establishes and appropriates funds to the Kokua Na Keiki Special Fund. Sunsets on June 30, 2010. (HB1043 HD1)

