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# 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; and
- 20 (G) The chairs of the senate and house health  
21 committees.



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

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

11 (e) The task force shall include an accounting of the  
12 effectiveness of the endorsed programs, as well as any  
13 suggestions for preventing children from becoming homeless, in  
14 its reports to the legislature pursuant to subsection (d).

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

- 19 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature into the fund;  
20 and  
21 (2) Any contributions by private entities.



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

3 (1) Establish and hire a coordinator of services for  
4 homeless children position; and

5 (2) Establish and hire one support staff position to  
6 assist the coordinator of services for homeless  
7 children.

8 (c) The moneys in the special fund may also be used by the  
9 department of human services to provide grants for innovative  
10 programs that benefit homeless children or that help coordinate  
11 services for the benefit of homeless children; provided that the  
12 grants are awarded in accordance with section 4.

13 SECTION 4. (a) Applications for grants shall be made to  
14 the department and contain the information as the office shall  
15 require. At a minimum, the applicant shall show:

16 (1) The name of the requesting organization or individual;

17 (2) A written description of the specific program or  
18 service to be supported by the grant;

19 (3) The cost of the grant; and

20 (4) That the grant shall be used for activities that are  
21 consistent with the purposes of this Act.

22 (b) Grants shall only be awarded if:



- 1 (1) The applicant has applied for or received all required  
2 applicable licenses and permits to conduct the  
3 activities or provide the services for which a grant  
4 is awarded;
- 5 (2) The applicant agrees to comply with applicable  
6 federal, state, and county laws;
- 7 (3) The grant shall not be used for purposes of  
8 entertainment or perquisites;
- 9 (4) All activities and improvements undertaken with funds  
10 received shall comply with all applicable federal,  
11 state, and county statutes and ordinances, including  
12 applicable building codes and agency rules; and
- 13 (5) The applicant will indemnify and hold harmless the  
14 department, the State of Hawaii, its officers, agents,  
15 and employees from and against any and all claims  
16 arising out of or resulting from activities carried  
17 out or projects undertaken with funds provided  
18 hereunder, and procure sufficient insurance to provide  
19 this indemnification if requested to do so by the  
20 department.
- 21 (c) To receive a grant, an applicant shall:
- 22 (1) Be:



- 1           (A) A for-profit subsidiary of a nonprofit
- 2                   organization incorporated under the law of the
- 3                   State;
- 4           (B) A nonprofit community-based organization
- 5                   determined to be exempt from federal income
- 6                   taxation by the Internal Revenue Service;
- 7           (C) A cooperative association; or
- 8           (D) An individual, who in the department's
- 9                   determination, is able to provide the services or
- 10                  activities proposed in the application for a
- 11                  grant;
- 12       (2) In the case of a nonprofit organization, have a
- 13                  governing board whose members have no material
- 14                  conflict of interest and serve without compensation,
- 15                  have bylaws or policies that describe the manner in
- 16                  which business is conducted and policies relating to
- 17                  nepotism and management of potential conflict of
- 18                  interest situations, and employ or contract with no
- 19                  two or more members of a family or kin of the first or
- 20                  second degree of consanguinity unless specifically
- 21                  permitted by the department;



1 (3) Agree to make available to the department all records  
 2 the applicant may have relating to the operation of  
 3 the applicant's activity, business, or enterprise, to  
 4 allow the department to monitor the applicant's  
 5 compliance with the purpose of this chapter; and

6 (4) Establish, to the satisfaction of the department, that  
 7 sufficient funds are available for the effective  
 8 operation of the activity, business, or enterprise for  
 9 the purpose for which the grant is awarded.

10 (d) Every grant shall be:

11 (1) Monitored by the department to ensure compliance with  
 12 this section and the purposes and intent of the grant;  
 13 and

14 (2) Evaluated annually to determine whether the grant  
 15 attained the intended results in the manner  
 16 contemplated.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
 19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and  
 20 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
 21 year 2008-2009, to be paid into the kokua na keiki special fund.



1 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the kokua na keiki  
2 special fund the sum of \$ , or so much thereof as may  
3 be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the same sum, or so  
4 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, for  
5 the purpose described in section 3.

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

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
9 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2011; provided that sections 5  
10 and 6 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 a special fund; sunset date. (SD2)

