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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that youth violence is a  
2 growing concern in Hawaii, particularly violence and juvenile  
3 delinquency associated with gang membership. In addition,  
4 homicide, suicide, aggravated assaults, and traffic accidents  
5 due to alcohol consumption by underage youth represent large  
6 costs for the State. In 2010, overall youth violence cost the  
7 State over \$109,000,000, with \$28,000,000 in costs resulting  
8 from youth property crime alone. In 2013, the average cost to  
9 incarcerate a youth at the Hawaii youth correctional facility  
10 was over \$199,000 a year. Unfortunately, three-quarters of all  
11 youth leaving the facility were re-adjudicated as delinquents or  
12 convicted as adults within three years.

13       Consequently, the legislature finds that a multi-pronged  
14 approach should be taken with programs that have the expertise  
15 and experience to reach out and establish relationships and help  
16 promote education, self-esteem, individual growth and  
17 development, leadership, and responsibility. Furthermore,  
18 helping to redirect and empower lives from lives of violence and



1 destruction to lives of constructive behavior will help  
2 immensely to solidify and secure school and community safety.  
3 Such programs will be able to establish strong relationships and  
4 partnerships with schools and community leaders to help  
5 coordinate appropriate services required for the youth at risk.  
6 The legislature further finds that this multi-pronged approach  
7 should incorporate an in-school centered group counseling  
8 program that will help address the deep rooted issues such as  
9 aggressive behavior and violence to ensure that youths who are  
10 most at risk are being identified and served in their respective  
11 communities and schools. Strong target areas to reach out to  
12 include Kalihi, Waipahu, Wahiawa, Ewa Beach, Kapolei, and  
13 Waianae.

14 The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to help reduce youth  
15 violence and delinquency in the State by appropriating funds to  
16 the department of human services to fund the operational costs  
17 to provide therapeutic prevention and mental health programs for  
18 high risk youth.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to



1 fund operational costs to provide training, program evaluation,  
2 therapeutic prevention, and mental health programs including in-  
3 school centered group counseling for high risk youth.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
5 human services for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



**Report Title:**

Youth; Mental Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate monies to fund operational costs to provide training, program evaluation, therapeutic prevention, and mental health programs for high risk youth. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

