

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROGRAMS FOR HIGH RISK YOUTH.

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 the State, particularly violence and juvenile
- 3 delinquency associated with gang membership. In addition,
- 4 homicide, suicide, aggravated assaults, and traffic accidents
- 5 due to underage alcohol consumption by youth represent large
- 6 costs for the State.
- 7 In 2010, overall youth violence cost the State over
- **8** \$109,000,000, with \$28,000,000 in costs resulting from youth
- 9 property crime alone. In 2013, the average cost to incarcerate
- 10 a youth at the Hawaii youth correctional facility was over
- 11 \$199,000. Unfortunately, three-quarters of all youth leaving
- 12 the facility in 2005-2007 were re-adjudicated as delinquents or
- 13 convicted as adults within three years.
- 14 Consequently, the legislature finds that a multi-pronged
- 15 approach should be taken with programs that have the expertise
- 16 and experience to reach out and establish relationships and help
- 17 promote education, self-esteem, individual growth and



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- 1 development, leadership, and responsibility. The legislature
- 2 further finds that this approach should incorporate both a
- 3 school-centered program and a neighborhood-centered program.
- 4 The purpose of this Act is to help reduce youth violence
- 5 and delinquency in the State by appropriating funds to the
- 6 department of human services for the operational costs of an
- 7 organization providing therapeutic prevention and mental health
- 8 programs for high risk youth.
- 9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
- 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
- 12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
- 13 2018-2019 for the operational costs of an organization to
- 14 provide therapeutic prevention and mental health programs for
- 15 high risk youth.
- 16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
- 17 of human services for the purposes of this Act.
- 18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY: Chan M. Topo

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Report Title:

Youth; Therapeutic Prevention and Mental Health Programs; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for the operational costs of an organization to provide therapeutic prevention and mental health programs for high risk youth.

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