
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that increasing youth
2 participation in the public policymaking process is a vital
3 state interest because Hawaii has the lowest voter participation
4 rate in the United States. In 2008, Hawaii had the lowest voter
5 participation rate among eighteen to twenty-nine year olds in
6 the country, at thirty-one per cent, compared to fifty-seven per
7 cent voter participation among those thirty years of age and
8 older.

9 The legislature further finds that young people aged
10 sixteen and seventeen may work, pay taxes, marry, and drive.
11 However, they are denied a formal role in the political process
12 because they are prohibited from voting. Because young people
13 under the age of eighteen may not vote, they deserve access and
14 input through other means to the policymaking process.

15 Many of the most persistent issues facing the State, such
16 as affordable housing, jobs, and education, primarily affect
17 young people. Young people are the ones who need a place to
18 live, depend on good employment to support themselves and their



1 families, and seek quality education for their children. Yet
2 after many decades, these issues remain among the most difficult
3 to address.

4 The legislature further finds that a youth advisory
5 commission would enable a greater role for young people in the
6 policymaking process. Furthermore, the legislature and governor
7 would benefit from additional formal input from young people on
8 the effect of legislation on young people in the State.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Establish a youth advisory commission within the
11 office of youth services to advise the governor and
12 legislature on the effects of legislative policies,
13 needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets
14 concerning the youth of the State; and
15 (2) Appropriate funds for the hiring of one staff position
16 to administer the youth advisory commission.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§352D- Youth advisory commission. (a) There is
21 established within the office of youth services, for



1 administrative purposes only, a youth advisory commission to
2 advise the governor and legislature on the effects of
3 legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs,
4 and budgets concerning the youth of the State. The commission
5 shall respond to requests for comment and recommendation on
6 matters referred to it by the governor or legislature.

7 (b) The youth advisory commission shall consist of fifteen
8 members between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four, of whom:

9 (1) Five members shall be appointed by the governor;
10 provided that the governor shall ensure that each
11 county is represented by at least one appointment;
12 provided further that the governor shall ensure that
13 at least one member is a previous recipient of youth
14 services;

15 (2) Five members shall be appointed by the president of
16 the senate; and

17 (3) Five members shall be appointed by the speaker of the
18 house of representatives;

19 provided that the president of the senate and the speaker of the
20 house of representatives shall consider, to the extent feasible,
21 a diverse cross section of race, color, religion, creed, sex,



1 sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry,
2 age, veteran status, disability, genetic information, and
3 military service when making their appointments.

4 (c) Each member shall be appointed for a term of two
5 years; provided that the initial terms of the appointed members
6 shall be staggered as follows:

7 (1) Six members, two each appointed by the governor, the
8 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house,
9 to serve three-year terms;

10 (2) Six members, two each appointed by the governor, the
11 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house,
12 to serve two-year terms; and

13 (3) Three members, one each appointed by the governor, the
14 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house,
15 to serve one-year terms.

16 (d) The members of the youth advisory commission shall not
17 be subject to section 26-34. The members of the youth advisory
18 commission shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel
19 expenses, incurred in their duties relating to the commission.

20 (e) The youth advisory commission shall annually elect a
21 chairperson.



1 (f) Eight members of the youth advisory commission shall
2 constitute a quorum to do business. Any action taken by the
3 commission shall be validated by a simple majority of the
4 quorum.

5 (g) The youth advisory commission members may invite other
6 individuals to participate in commission activities as
7 temporary, nonvoting members."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2018-2019 for the hiring of one staff position to
13 administer the youth advisory commission.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
15 youth services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

18



Report Title:

Youth Advisory Commission; Office of Youth Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a youth advisory commission within the office of youth services to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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