
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A YOUTH 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. Hawaii has the lowest youth 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 youth aged sixteen and
10 seventeen may legally 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. Although youth under
13 the age of eighteen may not vote, they deserve access and input
14 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 youth. Youth are the ones who need a place to live, depend on



1 good employment to support themselves and their families, and
2 seek quality education for their children, if applicable. Yet
3 after many decades, these issues remain among the most difficult
4 to address.

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

10 The purpose of this Act is to:

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

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



1 "§352D- Youth commission. (a) There is established
2 within the office of youth services, for administrative purposes
3 only, a youth commission to advise the governor and legislature
4 on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments,
5 priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the
6 State.

7 (b) The commission shall:

8 (1) Respond to requests for comment and recommendation on
9 matters referred to it by the governor or legislature;

10 (2) Conduct research and community outreach regarding the
11 needs of the youth of Hawaii, including but not
12 limited to increasing youth participation in
13 government and public policy;

14 (3) Make recommendations addressing the concerns and needs
15 of the youth of Hawaii; and

16 (4) Report to the governor and legislature the activities,
17 goals, and accomplishments of the commission by July 1
18 of each calendar year beginning on July 1, 2019.

19 (c) The youth commission shall consist of fifteen members
20 between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four and shall not be
21 subject to section 26-34. Of the members:



1 (1) Five members shall be appointed by the governor;
2 provided that the governor shall ensure that each
3 county is represented by at least one appointee;
4 provided further that the governor shall ensure that
5 at least one member is a previous recipient of youth
6 services;

7 (2) Five members shall be appointed by the president of
8 the senate; and

9 (3) Five members shall be appointed by the speaker of the
10 house of representatives;

11 provided that the president of the senate and the speaker of the
12 house of representatives shall appoint members representing the
13 diversity of the State.

14 (d) Each member shall be appointed for a term of two
15 years; provided that the initial terms of the appointed members
16 shall be staggered as follows:

17 (1) Six members, two each appointed by the governor, the
18 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house
19 of representatives, to serve three-year terms;



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

4 (3) Three members, one each appointed by the governor, the
5 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house
6 of representatives, to serve one-year terms.

7 (e) The youth commission shall annually elect a
8 chairperson.

9 (f) Eight members of the youth commission shall constitute
10 a quorum to do business. Any action taken by the commission
11 shall be validated by a simple majority of the quorum.

12 (g) The youth commission members may invite other
13 individuals to participate in commission activities as
14 temporary, nonvoting members.

15 (h) If the governor, president of the senate, or speaker
16 of the house of representatives fails to appoint a member to the
17 youth commission for any reason within six months after a
18 vacancy occurs, the commission by a majority vote may appoint a
19 person who satisfies the requirements of this section to the
20 commission to fill the vacancy."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
4 hiring of one staff position to administer the youth commission
5 and other associated administrative costs.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
7 youth services for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Youth Commission; Office of Youth Services; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a youth commission within the Office of Youth Services to advise the Governor and Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets relating to youth. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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