
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that instances of crisis
2 occurring amongst the State's most vulnerable youth are
3 increasing, especially in communities having a high incidence of
4 poverty, homelessness, crime, school truancy, school
5 suspensions, runaways, physical and mental abuse, illegal drug
6 use, juvenile crime, and crimes against youth, including sex
7 trafficking. The legislature further finds that these
8 communities lack sufficient resources and services to respond to
9 the immediate needs of the youth at risk. The legislature
10 acknowledges that there is also a lack of collaboration among
11 various state agencies to provide comprehensive, data-based
12 services to adequately identify the needs and conditions of
13 crises experienced by the State's youth.

14 The legislature believes that it is necessary to ensure
15 focused attention on the issues affecting the State's youth at
16 risk and provide a more proactive approach to mitigate the
17 effects of trauma and abuse, by more directly addressing their



1 needs. The legislature also believes that establishing a
2 framework of institutionalized youth crisis centers that can be
3 sustained, even in the absence of grant funding and contracted
4 services, will disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, encourage
5 the continuation of education, provide safer environments for
6 the State's youth, and ensure continued services toward
7 individual achievement.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
9 youth crisis center branch within the office of youth services,
10 to be headed by the youth crisis center branch administrator.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
13 designated and to read as follows:

14 "§352D- Youth crisis center branch; established;
15 regional centers. (a) There is established within the office
16 the youth crisis center branch.

17 (b) The branch may establish regional youth crisis centers
18 for the provision of services and temporary shelter to youth at
19 risk and youth in need of services; provided that the provision
20 of temporary shelter shall not exceed thirty days per person.



1 (c) The branch may contract with individual service
2 providers as the branch deems appropriate; provided that the
3 office shall maintain operational oversight of each youth crisis
4 center and the provision of youth services.

5 (d) The primary objective of each regional youth crisis
6 center established pursuant to this section shall be to address
7 the immediate safety and service needs of youth at risk.

8 (e) The objectives of the branch shall be to:

9 (1) Provide immediate temporary shelter for youth at risk
10 during times of crisis;

11 (2) Develop an improved system of intake, assessment, and
12 follow-up for youth at risk;

13 (3) Develop individualized service plans for each youth at
14 risk serviced by the branch; and

15 (4) Provide a wider range of informal dispositions for
16 youth at risk, including alternatives to the juvenile
17 justice and foster care systems.

18 (f) The branch may provide the following services and
19 programs:

20 (1) Mental health services and programs;

21 (2) Substance abuse treatment programs;



1 (3) Crisis shelters for homeless youth and victims of
2 human and sex trafficking;

3 (4) Vocational training;

4 (5) Group homes;

5 (6) Day treatment programs;

6 (7) Aftercare;

7 (8) Individual and family counseling services;

8 (9) Educational services; and

9 (10) Any other services and programs that may be required
10 to meet the needs of youth at risk.

11 (g) All youth at risk shall be eligible for services and
12 programs provided by each youth crisis center established
13 pursuant to this section.

14 (h) The administrator shall submit an annual report to the
15 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 each regular session. The report shall include:

17 (1) A summary of the services or programs provided
18 pursuant to this section;

19 (2) The number of youth receiving each service or
20 participating in each program provided pursuant to
21 this section;



(3) The results of each service and program provided pursuant to this section; and

(4) Any other findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation and resource allocations necessary to improve the effectiveness of each service and program provided pursuant to this section.

§352D- Administrator; appointment; powers and duties.

The branch shall be headed by an administrator who shall be appointed by the governor without regard to chapter 76. The administrator may appoint staff without regard to chapter 76."

SECTION 3. Section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Administrator" means the administrator of the branch.

"Branch" means the youth crisis center branch of the office."

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the office of youth services to establish the youth crisis center branch, including the establishment of one full-time



1 equivalent (1.0 FTE) administrator position and two full-time
2 equivalent (2.0 FTE) program specialist positions.

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

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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



S.B. NO. 2481 S.D. 2 H.D. 2

Report Title:

Office of Youth Services; Youth Crisis Center Branch;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the youth crisis center branch within the office of youth services and the position of administrator of the youth crisis center branch to head the branch. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)

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