
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 amongst
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 experienced by these youth, by more



1 directly addressing their needs. The legislature also believes
2 that establishing a framework of institutionalized youth crisis
3 centers that may be sustained, even in the absence of grant
4 funding and contracted services, will disrupt the school-to-
5 prison pipeline, encourage the continuation of education,
6 provide safer environments for the State's youth, and ensure
7 continued services towards 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. Section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
13 inserted and to read as follows:

14 "Administrator" means the administrator of the branch.

15 "Branch" means the youth crisis center branch of the office
16 of youth services."

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
19 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§352D- Youth crisis center branch; established;
2 regional centers. (a) There is established within the office
3 of youth services the youth crisis center branch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

4 (f) The branch may provide the following services and
5 programs:

6 (1) Mental health services and programs;

7 (2) Substance abuse treatment programs;

8 (3) Crisis shelters for homeless youth and victims of
9 human and sex trafficking;

10 (4) Vocational training;

11 (5) Group homes;

12 (6) Day treatment programs;

13 (7) Aftercare;

14 (8) Individual and family counseling services;

15 (9) Educational services; and

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

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



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

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

6 (2) The number of youths receiving each service or
7 participating in each program provided pursuant to
8 this section;

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

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

15 §352D- Administrator; appointment; powers and duties.

16 The youth crisis center of the office of youth services shall be
17 headed by an administrator who shall be appointed by the
18 governor without regard to chapter 76. The administrator may
19 appoint staff without regard to chapter 76."

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
2 the office of youth services to establish the youth crisis
3 center branch, including the establishment of one full-time
4 equivalent (1.0 FTE) administrator position and two full-time
5 equivalent (2.0 FTE) program specialist positions.

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

8 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Office of Youth Services; Youth Crisis Center Branch;
Administrator; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Youth Crisis Center Branch within the Office of Youth Services and the position of Administrator of the Youth Crisis Branch to head the Office of Youth Services.
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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