
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to amend Act 130,
2 Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, by clarifying access to services,
3 adding a description of homeless youth, and expanding the ages
4 that may be served for the safe spaces for youth pilot program.

5 SECTION 2. Act 130, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, is
6 amended by amending section 2 to read as follows:

7 "SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the
8 department of human services [~~for administrative purposes only~~
9 a] office of youth services the safe spaces for youth pilot
10 program, which shall be an inter-agency initiative to provide
11 safe spaces in each county for youth experiencing
12 homelessness[~~-~~]or who are at risk of homelessness.

13 (b) [~~The program shall collaborate with all~~] All
14 departments of the State and its political subdivisions that
15 offer services [~~for the purpose of ensuring~~] for the well-being
16 of youth in Hawaii, including the department of education,
17 department of health, department of human services, department



1 of public safety, and county police departments, shall
2 collaborate to [~~coordinate the identification of~~] identify youth
3 who are experiencing homelessness and coordinate placement of
4 these youth at a shelter for homeless youth.

5 (c) The department of human services shall enter into
6 contracts with nonprofit organizations to provide [~~shelters~~]
7 shelter, assessment, and access to available services for
8 [~~homeless~~] youth[~~-~~] experiencing homelessness or who are at risk
9 of homelessness. Any nonprofit organization contracted under
10 this subsection shall have the knowledge, experience, and
11 qualifications, including licenses, necessary to operate a
12 shelter for homeless youth.

13 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a
14 shelter for homeless youth contracted under subsection (c) may
15 admit a youth into the shelter's care for up to ninety days
16 without the consent of the youth's parent or guardian. Shelters
17 for homeless youth shall take steps to ensure that youth who are
18 or should be under the legal jurisdiction of the juvenile
19 justice or child welfare systems obtain and receive services
20 from those systems until such time as the youth are released
21 from the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice or child welfare



1 systems as required by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, title
2 42 United States Code sections 5701 through 5752, as amended."

3 (e) The department of human services shall submit a report
4 of its findings and recommendations pertaining to the safe
5 spaces for youth pilot program to the legislature no later than
6 thirty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
7 2025. The report shall include:

- 8 (1) A record of pilot program activities and
9 accomplishments;
- 10 (2) A recommendation on whether to extend the program; and
11 (3) Any proposed legislation.

12 (f) The department of human services [~~shall~~] may adopt
13 rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, necessary
14 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

15 (g) For the purposes of this Act:

16 "Shelter for homeless youth" means a facility that operates
17 to receive youth twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and
18 provide youth with services, [~~including~~] that may include:

- 19 (1) Overnight lodging and supervision;
20 (2) Hot meals and hot showers;
21 (3) Access to medical and behavioral health services; and



1 (4) Education and employment support[-];

2 "Youth" means an individual [~~who is at least fourteen years~~
3 ~~of age but~~] under twenty-five years of age."

4 "Youth at risk of homelessness," or "youth experiencing
5 homelessness," or "homeless youth" means:

6 (1) Youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due
7 to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar
8 reason; living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds
9 due to the lack of adequate alternative

10 accommodations; abandoned in hospitals; or residing in
11 other health care or behavioral health care settings;

12 (2) Youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a
13 public or private place not designed for or ordinarily
14 used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human
15 beings; or

16 (3) Youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces,
17 abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train
18 stations, or similar settings."

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,496,870 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal years 2023-2024 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2024-2025 to fund and operate the safe spaces for youth pilot
3 program, including funding for two full-time equivalent (2.0
4 FTE) positions and administrative costs for the pilot program.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

10



H.B. NO. 223 H.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Office of Youth Services; Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program; Youth Shelter; Homelessness; Appropriation

Description:

Amends the office of youth services safe spaces for youth pilot program by clarifying access to services, providing a definition of homeless youth, and expanding the age of youth that may be served. Appropriates funds. (HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

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