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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REPORT ON THE CULTURAL AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AT THE KAWAIILOA YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness, poverty, and mental health are among  
2 the most pressing social issues within the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, ten percent of Hawaii's homeless population is  
5 comprised of individuals under the age of eighteen years; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, forty-four percent of homeless youth report having  
8 spent time in jail or a juvenile detention center; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, "opportunity youth", sometimes referred to as  
11 disconnected youth, are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-  
12 four and are neither in school nor working; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, state-sponsored working groups and recent reports  
15 have shown that community-based support centers for opportunity  
16 youth, or homeless or formerly incarcerated youth, substantially  
17 reduce:

18  
19 (1) The likelihood that youth are incarcerated;

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21 (2) The amount of time they spend incarcerated; and

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23 (3) The likelihood that they experience homelessness; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii hui at the  
26 Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center partners with state  
27 and nonprofit agencies to transform punitive modalities of  
28 treatment and incarceration with effective therapeutic  
29 community-based programs rooted in indigenous knowledge systems  
30 and cultural practices; and

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1 WHEREAS, expanding state and private sector collaboration  
 2 and implementing proven and effective therapeutic and cultural  
 3 methods to promote youth wellness can help the State reduce  
 4 homelessness and the negative effects of incarceration; now,  
 5 therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 8 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 9 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
 10 Human Services is requested to report on the positive effects of  
 11 cultural and therapeutic services provided by community-based  
 12 organizations at the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center;  
 13 and

14  
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
 16 include plans for expanding state and private sector  
 17 collaboration to reduce homelessness and the negative effects of  
 18 incarceration and promote youth wellness; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
 21 Services is requested to submit the report of its findings and  
 22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 23 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 24 the Regular Session of 2025; and

25  
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
 28 Services.

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OFFERED BY: *Lina Marts*

MAR - 8 2024

