
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the
2 overrepresentation of youth from the Native Hawaiian community,
3 Pacific Islander communities, and communities of color across
4 Hawaii's criminal justice system reflects intergenerational
5 trauma, cultural dislocation, and risk factors associated with
6 poverty.

7 The legislature also finds that adolescence is a period of
8 risk-taking and experimentation, in which youth of all cultural
9 backgrounds explore their place in society. The decisions made
10 in this period of life have long-term implications for the
11 health of individuals and our community. Risky behavior by
12 youth from at-risk communities have particularly dangerous
13 consequences, including a higher risk of mortality, poverty,
14 chronic health issues, and suicide. These behaviors may also
15 lead to incarceration and continued cycles of trauma.

16 Youth from all communities deserve a stable and
17 well-rounded upbringing. Best practices regarding youth from



1 underserved communities who face negative risk factors and
2 adverse childhood experiences suggest that culturally focused
3 solutions have positive results. Longitudinal studies of youth
4 from across the world that study resilience note the importance
5 of healthy relationships and healthy experiences through the
6 tumultuous years of adolescence.

7 The legislature also finds that numerous programs across
8 the State that offer mentorship, sports, after-school
9 programing, counseling, and friendship have made an impact in
10 the lives of hundreds of children over decades of service.
11 These programs have been adversely affected by the coronavirus
12 disease 2019 pandemic. In addition, the privatization of many
13 extracurricular activities has left many underserved youth
14 without avenues to explore their roles in our community.

15 The legislature believes that youth deserve investment in
16 both time and resources. The legislature also believes that
17 investment in the activities of youth from the Native Hawaiian
18 community, Pacific Islander communities, and communities of
19 color, who are overrepresented in Hawaii's criminal justice
20 system, is a matter of statewide concern.



1 The purpose of this Act is to increase funding to services
 2 and programs by establishing a grant program within the office
 3 of youth services, which will decrease the overrepresentation of
 4 youth from the Native Hawaiian community, Pacific Islander
 5 communities, and communities of color across Hawaii's criminal
 6 justice system and address intergenerational trauma, cultural
 7 dislocation, and risk factors associated with poverty.

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

11 "§352D- Programs and entities supporting at-risk youth;
 12 grants. (a) The office shall administer a grant program, which
 13 shall provide grants to qualified programs and entities that
 14 support the State's youth; provided that the office shall give
 15 priority to programs that:

- 16 (1) Support youth from ethnic groups that:
 - 17 (A) Are disproportionately represented in the Hawaii
 - 18 youth correctional facility, the State's overall
 - 19 prison or jail population, or the State's
 - 20 correctional system in general; or



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1 (B) As shown by statistics, are at a
2 disproportionately higher risk of mortality,
3 poverty, chronic health issues, suicide, or other
4 risk factors;

5 (2) Address the negative effects of adverse childhood
6 experiences;

7 (3) Support rehabilitation as an alternative to
8 incarceration for youth offenders; or

9 (4) Meet community needs identified pursuant to needs
10 assessments or the community consultation described in
11 subsection (c).

12 (b) In addition to the criteria established in
13 subsection (a), the office shall also give priority to programs
14 that obtain matching funds from non-state sources.

15 (c) Before awarding any grants pursuant to this section,
16 the office shall solicit input from community partners to
17 identify priorities and unmet needs. The office shall
18 periodically solicit input to update the grant program's
19 priorities.

20 (d) Subject to the availability of moneys, grants may be:



1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

John M. P. [Signature]
JAN 20 2023



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Report Title:

Office of Youth Services; Grant Program; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a grant program within the Office of Youth Services. Gives priority to programs that support youth from ethnic groups that are disproportionately represented in the State's correctional system, support rehabilitation, or meet needs identified by the Office of Youth Services in consultation with the community. Appropriates moneys.

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