
HOUSE 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
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7 WHEREAS, forty-four percent of homeless youth report having
8 spent time in jail or a juvenile detention center; and
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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
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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:
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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, that the Department of Human Services is
10 requested to report on the positive effects of cultural and
11 therapeutic services provided by community-based organizations
12 at the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
15 include plans for expanding State and private sector
16 collaboration to reduce homelessness and the negative effects of
17 incarceration and promote youth wellness; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
20 Services is requested to submit the report of its findings and
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
22 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
23 the Regular Session of 2025; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

