
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one in ten young
2 adults who are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five
3 years, and at least one in thirty adolescents between the ages
4 of thirteen and seventeen, experience some form of homelessness
5 in which the young adult or adolescent is unaccompanied by a
6 parent or guardian over the course of a year.

7 The legislature further finds that among homeless youth,
8 sixty-nine per cent report mental health problems; thirty-three
9 per cent have once been part of the foster care system; and
10 fifty per cent have been in the juvenile justice system, in jail
11 or detention. Moreover, sixty-two per cent of lesbian, gay,
12 bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ+) youth
13 report being physically harmed while experiencing homelessness,
14 while forty-seven per cent of non-LGBTQ+ youth reported being
15 physically harmed while homeless.

16 The legislature also finds that runaway and homeless youth
17 are vulnerable to multiple threats, including having unmet basic



1 food and shelter needs, untreated mental health disorders,
2 substance use, significant disruption to their education,
3 sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus
4 infection, sexual exploitation, physical victimization, and
5 suicide. The legislature recognizes that existing resources for
6 outreach and shelter options are limited as unaccompanied
7 homeless youth tend to be an underserved and neglected
8 population.

9 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to the
10 department of human services to provide emergency shelter and
11 services to unaccompanied homeless youth.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2026-2027 to provide emergency shelter and services to
17 unaccompanied homeless youth throughout the State; provided that
18 emergency shelters and services shall be provided on each of the
19 islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu.

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



H.B. NO. 645

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Lisa Mate

JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 645

Report Title:

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth; Emergency Shelter and Services;
Department of Human Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to provide emergency shelter and services to unaccompanied homeless youth.

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

