
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children,
2 particularly young children, are the most vulnerable during, and
3 at times victimized by, homelessness. While many children
4 develop some resiliency to their situation and are able to
5 overcome the ravages of homelessness, homelessness often leads
6 to poor health, exposure to violence, poor academic performance,
7 and a lack of positive social interactions.

8 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the adverse effects
9 of homelessness on children by establishing a task force to
10 coordinate resources to benefit children who are homeless.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a task force to
12 coordinate public and private resources to benefit homeless
13 children.

14 (b) The president of the senate and the speaker of the
15 house of representatives shall convene the task force. The task
16 force shall:



- 1 (1) Be co-chaired by the chair of the senate human
2 services and public housing committee and the chair of
3 the house human services and housing committee; and
- 4 (2) Include:
- 5 (A) The superintendent of education or the
6 superintendent of education's designee;
- 7 (B) The director of health or the director of
8 health's designee;
- 9 (C) The director of human services or the director of
10 human services' designee;
- 11 (D) Four members representing the four counties
12 appointed by the mayor of each county;
- 13 (E) Four members representing not-for-profit
14 organizations that serve Hawaii's homeless
15 families, two appointed by the president of the
16 senate and two appointed by the speaker of the
17 house of representatives;
- 18 (F) The chairs of the senate and house education
19 committees;
- 20 (G) The chairs of the senate and house health
21 committees; and



1 (H) Two individuals who are homeless, one appointed
2 by the president of the senate and one appointed
3 by the speaker of the house of representatives.

4 (c) The task force shall establish findings and develop
5 recommendations on how the State can coordinate public and
6 private resources to benefit homeless children.

7 (d) The task force shall submit an interim report,
8 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
10 of 2008, 2009, and 2010, and shall submit a final report,
11 including its findings and recommendations and any proposed
12 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
13 to the convening of the regular session of 2011.

14 (e) The task force shall terminate on June 30, 2011.

15 SECTION 3. (a) There is established within the state
16 treasury the kokua na keiki special fund to be administered and
17 expended by the department of human services, and into which
18 shall be deposited:

19 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature; and

20 (2) Any contributions by private entities.

21 (b) The moneys in the special fund shall be used by the
22 department of human services to:



- 1 (1) Establish and hire a homelessness coordinator
2 position; and
- 3 (2) Establish and hire one support staff position to
4 assist the homelessness coordinator.
- 5 (c) The moneys in the special fund may also be used by the
6 department of human services to provide grants for innovative
7 programs that benefit homeless children or that help coordinate
8 services for the benefit of homeless children.
- 9 (d) Applications for grants shall be made to the
10 department of human services and contain:
- 11 (1) The name of the requesting organization or individual;
12 (2) The purpose for the grant;
13 (3) The service to be supported by the grant;
14 (4) The target group to be benefited;
15 (5) The cost of the grant; and
16 (6) That the grant shall be used for activities that are
17 consistent with the purposes of this Act.
- 18 (e) Grants shall only be awarded if:
- 19 (1) The applicant has applied for or received all
20 applicable licenses and permits, when such is required
21 to conduct the activities or provide the services for
22 which a grant is awarded;



- 1 (2) The applicant agrees to comply with applicable
2 federal, state, and county laws;
- 3 (3) The grant shall not be used for purposes of
4 entertainment or perquisites; and
- 5 (4) The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the
6 department of human services, the State, its officers,
7 agents, and employees from and against any and all
8 claims arising out of or resulting from activities
9 carried out or projects undertaken with funds provided
10 hereunder, and procure sufficient insurance to provide
11 this indemnification if requested to do so by the
12 department of human services.
- 13 (f) To receive a grant, an applicant shall:
- 14 (1) Agree to make available to the department of human
15 services all records the applicant may have relating
16 to the operation of the applicant's activity,
17 business, or enterprise, to allow the department of
18 human services to monitor the applicant's compliance
19 with the purpose of this Act; and
- 20 (2) Establish, to the satisfaction of the department of
21 human services, that sufficient funds are available
22 for the effective operation of the activity, business,



1 or enterprise for the purpose for which the grant is
2 awarded.

3 (g) Every grant shall be:

4 (1) Monitored by the department of human services to
5 ensure compliance with this Act and the purposes and
6 intent of the grant; and

7 (2) Evaluated annually to determine whether the grant
8 attained the intended results in the manner
9 contemplated.

10 (h) Grants made by the department of human services under
11 this Act may be made without regard to chapters 103D and 103F,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ for
15 fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum for fiscal year 2008-2009
16 to be deposited into the kokua na keiki special fund.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the kokua na keiki
18 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
19 necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
21 purposes described in section 3.



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

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020, and
4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2011; provided that sections 5 and
5 6 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Children

Description:

Establishes a task force to coordinate resources for homeless children; sunsets on June 30, 2011. Establishes and appropriates funds to the Kokua Na Keiki special fund. Creates an administrative grant program for the department of human services to award grants for programs that benefit homeless children. (SD1)

