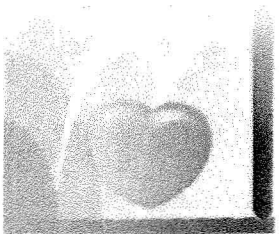


LATE TESTIMONY

Kids hurt too

HEALING YOUNG HEARTS



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January 29, 2008

To: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair and members of the committee on Human Services & Housing and Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair, Representative Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair, and members of the committee on Education

From: Cynthia White, M.A.Ed., Executive Director

Re: Support for HB 2030, Relating to school-age children

Kids hurt too is a non-profit organization providing peer support and mentoring services to children in low income single-parent and foster parent families, which includes orphans, foster children, children of divorce, and other children separated from one or both parents.

Kids hurt too received a non-school hour programs grant in 2007 through the Office of Youth Services. We started an after school mentoring program, providing services at the Beretania Community Park on Aala Street across the street from where we will open a permanent facility for after school mentoring services and peer support programs. We provided activities after school in a rented classroom at the district park. Our first involvement with the local middle school youth was to interrupt the bullying and teasing of younger youth and offering them safer activities. To our amazement, within a few weeks, the youth did not walk to our program, they ran. Soon we had up to 40 youth running to our classroom to join in activities to develop healthy eating habits, gain social skills, improve self-esteem, assist with homework, and encourage safe conduct. We conducted evaluations finding participants increased their academic performance when receiving help with homework, understood how to read a label and recognize the five food groups, felt better about themselves, felt safer in their community, and understood guidelines for safe conduct.

We received \$60,000 of funding to hire a full time coordinator and one-quarter time assistant. We involved college students to work as mentors. We believe our after school program was a tremendous success. The grant enable us to expand our current services. Please support funding for HB 2030.

Thank you,
Cynthia White
256-3176

LATE TESTIMONY

Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services and Housing

Noa Hussey

YMCA of Honolulu, Kaimuki-Waiālae Branch

4835 Kilauea Avenue

Honolulu, HI, 96816

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Support of House Bill 2030, Relating to School-Age Children

I represent the YMCA of Honolulu from the Kaimuki-Waiālae Branch; our branch serves over 800 children from K-8th grade in after-school hour's programs. We strongly support House Bill 2030 relating to school-age children, which would provide funds for non-school hour programs for youth enrolled in school.

With 259 students from Palolo Elementary of which 238 are eligible for free and reduced lunch program (91.9%) and 108 (41.7%) students require English as Second Language assistance. With 280 students at Jarrett middle school 168 (60%) students eligible for free and reduced lunch program and 32 students require English as Second Language assistance. With most students not being eligible for A-plus program in this area because one or both parents are unemployed. We see the definite need for non-school hours programming in our community and all around the State of Hawaii. This programming will help students that would not be eligible to participate in non-school hours programs and enhance their ability to become Life-long Learners.

With the focus of the Hawaii State Assessment tests on reading and math we feel that non-school hours programming will be essential in helping these schools and there students. We urge the Committee to pass House Bill 2030. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suggested Amended Language for sections of HB 2030 and other related bills:

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the state of Hawaii the sum of \$ ore so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for non school hour programs for kindergarten through twelfth grades for the department of education, **provided that in allocating these funds the department shall place higher priority on supporting and expanding science, technology, engineering, math and other experiential learning initiatives of importance to the State of Hawaii.**

List of Educational Initiatives in 2008

- 1. Coping with NCLB, especially high turnover, hard to staff schools in poor areas.**
- 2. Early Education**
- 3. STEM**
- 4. Teacher workforce development: College Capacity**
- 5. Teacher workforce retention: mentoring and other support**
- 6. Infrastructure, repair and maintenance of higher education, esp. College of Education**
- 7. New infrastructure and facilities K-12 DOE.**
- 8. New ways to assist charter schools in leveraging public and private funds for facilities.**
- 9. Tracking students through the P-20 pipeline and providing transition programs.**

Most of these are compartmentalized. Funding and implementation are often not connected, and prioritization is often at the subsystem level. Legislative treatment does not appear to attempt linkages, even during a year with fiscal challenges.