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TO: Chairs Norman Sakamoto and Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii Senate
Committee on Education and Human Services & Public Housing

FROM: Nicole K. Shinoda

RE: HB 2962 – Safe Haven After School Program

DATE: Hearing on Monday, February 17, 2008

POSITION: Support

Chairs Sakamoto and Oakland and Members of the Committees on EDU/HSP:

I am a Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I am writing in support of the bill HB 2962.

HB 2962 calls for the appropriation of funds to begin the Safe Haven after school program in the county of Hawaii. I am in support of the implementation of the Safe Haven program for three reasons. The first reason is that it will provide youth with a safe and supportive place to go to after school hours. When students are offered activities that they enjoy participating in, they are less likely to be bored, and as a result, they are less likely to get involved in risky behavior.

The second reason that I am strongly in favor of the Safe Haven after school program is that the extracurricular activity and supportive environment will work to increase the self-esteem and self-concept of the youth involved. When youth feel better about themselves, they will be more likely to attempt to achieve their goals and less likely to get involved with drugs and other negative activities.

The third reason that I am in favor of the Safe Haven after school program is that it encourages the community to get involved with the nurturing of the community's youth. It draws on the ancient Hawaiian traditions of child rearing, still at the heart of the Hawaiian people, that it takes the whole community to raise a child.

The Safe Haven After School Program is important for Hawaii's youth. Please support HB 2962, allowing for the appropriation of funds to implement this program.

Thank you!

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