



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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February 21, 2008

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2822, S.D. 1 RELATING TO NON-SCHOOL HOUR
PROGRAMS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) recognizes the importance of structured programs and activities during the non-school hours for children and youth to prevent or reduce the risk of delinquent and problem behaviors and to establish and strengthen protective factors for those children and youth. The OYS has supported such activities through its funding of community-based agencies and programs that strive to establish safe, nurturing environments during non-school hours to develop competencies that enable them to achieve successful transition to young adulthood.

The OYS is currently funding ten (10) agencies to provide non-school hour programs for youth statewide with funding appropriated by Act 281/SLH 2006. The funded programs include a variety of activities, including home work assistance, video and music projects, fitness activities, interpersonal skills trainings, community service opportunities and intergenerational mentoring. The OYS collaborated with the Department of Education and City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation to plan for implementation of services.

We appreciate the over-all concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive

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of our goals and objectives, however, OYS defers to the Department of Human Services regarding the priorities and usage of the TANF funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.