



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Millilani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-5700
Fax: (808) 587-5734

April 10, 2008

TO: The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SCR 106, SD1, REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES CONVENE A WORKING STUDY GROUP TO CONDUCT A STUDY INTO SAFE SHELTER OPTIONS FOR YOUTH.

Hearing: Thursday, April 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports the passage of SCR 106, SD1 which requests the Office of Youth Services and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a working study group to conduct a study into safe shelter options for youth.

The OYS appreciates the changes made by the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing in developing SCR 106, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Pamela Minei Williams
84-101 Kiapa Place, Mākaha, HI 96792
668-4446

Re: SCR 106, SD1

Measure Title: REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES CONVENE A WORKING STUDY GROUP TO CONDUCT A STUDY INTO SAFE SHELTER OPTIONS FOR YOUTH.

Hearing Date: Thursday, Feb. 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in conference rm. 329.

Position: Support

Hawaii House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

Chairs Shimabukuro and Rhoads: Human Services & Housing. Chairs Green and Mizuno: Committee on Health.

My name is Pamela Minei Williams; I am a student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Social Work. This measure is important to me because all children should have a place where they could go that is safe and free of harm, assault or physical abuse.

Runaways are at greater risk to these types of threats because life on the streets for a runaway exposes the youth to all kinds of predators. This resolution provides runaways with an option to get into an emergency shelter instead of the sleeping on the streets.

Please support this measure to offer runaway youth a choice between sleeping on the streets and being able to be admitted into an emergency shelter to protect them from predators and improve their quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Pamela Minei Williams