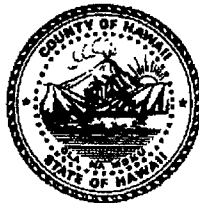


SB 774

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

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February 25, 2009

The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
And Committee Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 774, RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Dear Chair Kim and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 774, which would establish a framework for Safe Haven after-school programs across the state, and create a Safe Haven Model Demonstration Program in Hawai'i County.

We all know that the risk of juvenile crime, drug use, alcohol and tobacco use and sexual activity increases among older children who are left unsupervised in the after-school hours. There is also a consensus that Hawai'i County lacks positive educational and recreational activities for our youth in the after-school and evening hours.

Today there is no "A-Plus" Program for teenagers, but our schools can be a positive place for our kids even after the traditional school day ends. The Safe Haven After School Program would establish safe, structured and supervised after-school learning environments for our youth. It will allow our communities to take responsibility for our children, for our schools and for our communities' health and safety.

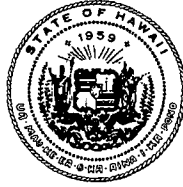
We ask you to help us to open our schools to our youth so they can remain there after classes end to engage in positive recreational, educational and cultural activities. Working parents, who are under all kinds of stresses today, will benefit from knowing their children are being supervised in a safe and positive environment.

We all understand these are difficult economic times, but providing positive alternatives for our youth today will pay dividends for decades to come. We owe it to our children to make the Safe Haven Model a reality.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Billy Kenoi
MAYOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Miliiani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

February 25, 2009

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Shan S. Tsutui, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Vice Chair

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 774, SD1 RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports the intent of SB 774, SD1, relating to non-school hour programs. However, the 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.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Date of Decision-Making: February 27, 2009

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 0774, S.D. 1 (SSCR 141), Relating to Schools

Purpose: Appropriates TANF funds for non-school-hour programs; introduces Hawaii county safe haven demonstration project.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. No. 774, S.D. 1 (SSCR 141). The Department recognizes the importance of providing safe and structured learning environments for school-age children during non-school hours, and will collaborate with the Departments of Human Services and Parks and Recreation, and other community agencies in implementing non-school hour programs. The Department supports S.B. No. 0774, S.D. 1 (SSCR 141) as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscals Years 2009-2010, and we defer to the Department of Human Services and the County of Hawaii, the identified funding agencies, as to the funding priority.