



STATE OF HAWAII
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April 24, 2009

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

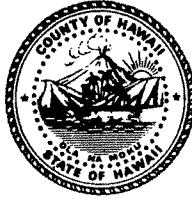
**SUBJECT: SCR143, SD1, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF
ESTABLISHING A BIG ISLAND JUVENILE INTAKE AND
ASSESSMENT CENTER**

Hearing: Friday, April 24, 2009; 11:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this resolution as a Big Island Juvenile Justice Intake and Assessment Center will fill a gap in current juvenile justice services. We commend the County of Hawaii Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for convening stakeholders in this County-wide effort to provide safe holding and new prevention and intervention strategies for juvenile arrestees and their families. The OYS stands ready to assist in any way we can, including providing access to OYS services on the Big Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair,
And Members of the House Committee on Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 143 SD1, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A BIG ISLAND JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER

Aloha Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR 143 SD1, in which the Legislature recognizes the need for a juvenile intake and assessment center to address a longstanding problem in the juvenile justice system in Hawai'i County.

A survey of Big Island police in 2006 found that officers often have no good options when dealing with arrested juveniles who need supervision, but cannot go home, and who do not need secure custody. Existing programs are fragmented, and may not accept youth who are disruptive or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center would help law enforcement by providing a safe holding place for youth so that officers can return to patrol duty.

Beyond assisting police, this program would provide a center where agencies can reach out to at-risk youth, and our young people can get effective help. Police, prosecutors, the Public Defender, the Third Circuit Court and the state Departments of Education, Health and Human Services have all signed agreements to participate in BIJAC as a way of centralizing services.

We are requesting start-up funding for a pilot project in Pahoa to provide a single point of entry for intake, assessment and case management of delinquent and at-risk youth. Effectively intervening and providing services to these at-risk youth can keep them from graduating into the adult correctional system, and will save us money in the long run.

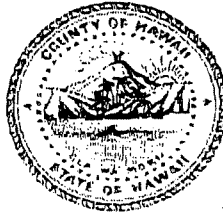
Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

JAY T. KIMURA
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CHARLENE Y. IBOSHI
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

April 22, 2009

Honorable John Mizuno
Chair, Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

Testimony in support of SCR 143, Supporting a system of juvenile intake and assessment centers

As Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii, I am very pleased to submit this testimony in support of SCR 143.

The idea of establishing one or more centers where youth in need of safety, supervision, and services can be helped in an integrated and cost-effective way, has been developing since at least 2003. In 2006, with the encouragement of this Legislature (HCR 250, HR 190), my office took on the task of "putting flesh on the bones," and in collaboration with the Judiciary; State Departments of Human Services, Education, and Health; County Police Department; and the Office of the Public Defender, prepared a plan that we believe is both meritorious and practical. However, unfortunately, we find ourselves, as does the rest of Hawaii, in a financial situation that leaves many worthy projects on the drawing board for lack of funding.

SCR 143, if adopted, would give us the recognition that our concepts are on the right track, and that would mean a great deal to us. It is also possible that with this legislative "seal of approval," we will be able to attract new partners, as well as explore funding opportunities that might not otherwise be available to us. It will not be easy, and we will likely be back in future years asking for monetary support, but in the meantime we will do what we can to make progress, since we believe that this concept deserves to move forward.

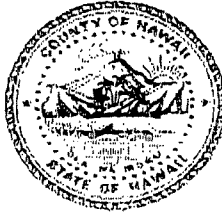
We appreciate your earlier support in introducing and passing the companion to this measure, HCR 135. We now thank you for any support you can give to SCR 143.

Very truly yours,

JAY T. KIMURA
Prosecuting Attorney

JAY T. KIMURA
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CHARLENE Y. IBOSHI
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

April 22, 2009

Honorable John M. Mizuno
Chair, Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Testimony in support of SCR 143, Supporting the concept of a Big Island juvenile intake and assessment center

Submitted by Charlene Y. Iboshi, First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Iboshi".

To: Chair Mizuno, and Committee Members:

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii submits this testimony in support of SCR 143, and we thank you for introducing and passing the companion measure (HCR 135) and for having this hearing.

This resolution acknowledges the need, and validates the work done to date, by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and our partners in County and State government as well as the private sector, to establish a single point of entry for intake, assessment, and case management of delinquent and at-risk youth. Such a center would benefit law enforcement, the courts and probation, youth-serving agencies, the general public, and above all, youth and their families.

When the State's financial situation improves, we are hopeful that this concept can be fully funded as appropriate, but we certainly understand that such funding is not possible at the present time. Therefore, in the interim, this resolution will be of great benefit to us, as we try to find alternate means by which to move forward on this exciting concept.

We truly appreciate your endorsement of our efforts, and thank you for this opportunity to testify.