

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

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

September 30, 2009

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

The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Merton Chinen, Children & Youth Specialist, Office of Youth Services

**SUBJECT: Impact of Office of Youth Services Position Eliminations on Public Services for Youths**

Hearing: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Aloha Honorable Committee Chairs & Members:

As an employee of the Office of Youth Services (OYS) for 10 years, I have had the honor and privilege to be a part of an agency that has truly attempted to be of service to the youth and families of Hawaii. Our mission has been specific, yet broad, because the youth at-risk in Hawaii reaches across the spectrum of social, economic and ethnic categories. Thus, the OYS has taken a multi-prong approach in addressing the many risk factors, and increasing the protective factors in communities across our island state. Our varied approaches have ranged from contracting with community-based agencies to provide youth and families with valuable face-to-face prevention services with caring staff, sponsoring trainings to increase skills in youth serving providers, and to be agents and resources for positive impacts in institutional systems such as education, juvenile justice and child welfare.

Examples of how the OYS has supported positive change in the community are numerous. OYS provided the Family Court with seed funding to undertake promising program practices such as Drug Court and Girls Court, during their start-up phases. Both programs were successful in working with youth and families through intensive, focused, and wrap-around support.

Another positive example of OYS influence was the initiation of the “The Net” in the early nineties that was truly ahead of its time, before the often used phrase “It Takes a Village” theme became popular. The Net was a community-based prevention initiative to bring together the vast service delivery community in order to promote the idea that we were truly one community, each doing and being their unique part of the whole, which together could provide a net of caring and safety for youth and families. Through a series of grass roots meetings, conferences, and trainings, The Net, established and enhanced a network of caring agencies and individuals over the years that continues to exist today, through ongoing email alerts and communication of events and happenings in the communities of our state.

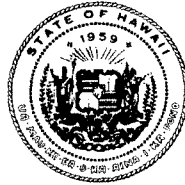
In the late nineties, the OYS spearheaded the formation of the Hawaii Girls Project, a project to raise awareness and recognition of the unique gender-specific needs and issues affecting females and to promote services and interventions to effectively address those needs. The influence of the Girls Project continues on today as community service providers have incorporated and institutionalized many of the principles and practices of effective gender-specific services in their programs.

The OYS has also provided important and valuable training initiatives and workshops for the community over the years. The list of training topics are too numerous to mention, but have included Cognitive Restructuring, Outreach to youth and families, effective Truancy Interventions, Comprehensive Strategies for Communities, and Forgiveness, an important life skill that is much needed in our communities today.

Finally, it is the staff and culture of OYS that have had the opportunity to positively impact the many partners, coalitions, and communities in the state. Yes, we are a State agency, but we are smaller and nimble, with the capacity and ability to support fledgling non-profit agencies; yet we are large enough to influence policies and change at a systems level.

In my humble opinion, the youth and families of the State will lose an invaluable resource if the OYS is no longer able to function to carry out its mission for the State.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.



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September 30, 2009

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
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The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Carl Imakyure, Children & Youth Specialist, Office of Youth Services

**SUBJECT: Impact of Office of Youth Services Position Eliminations on Public Services for Youths**

Hearing: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329


The State's planned reduction-in-force will essentially eviscerate the Office of Youth Services (OYS), a legislatively established agency that plans and contracts services for over 12,000 (annual count of registrants) homeless, runaway, delinquent, abused, substance abusing, at-risk, and troubled youth, including youth exiting the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. All eight of the OYS's children and youth specialists, as well as all support staffs, were sent pick slips, leaving just three administrators and one secretary remaining from the previous 20 staffs that currently manage over ninety program contracts for youth, bring into Hawaii over one million in Federal Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention monies annually, and co-monitor youth services contracts (including over 20 BESSD contracts) that other short-staffed State divisions are not able to manage.

Laying off OYS staffs will have devastating impact on youth services. It will mean the diminution and possibly complete elimination of the highly utilized attendant care program diversion that serves arrest youths, the education/vocational services for kids at risk for drop-out, the homeless children and youth outreach services, the outreach and advocacy program that provides case management services for youth and families, the positive youth development program that offers prevention activities in some of Hawaii's riskiest communities, the truancy prevention program, the youth gang prevention program

that works with gangs in Kalihi and Waipahu, and residential services that house abused, neglected, adjudicated, and homeless youth.

But position cuts will hit more than just programs. Through the OYS, at-risk and troubled children and youth of every community have had voice. That voice is now threatened to be muted by the cutting of the OYS and the possible shoveling of OYS contracts to another under-staffed division whose priorities may not be prevention, intervention, collaboration, and community development—all the plusses that OYS brought into youth services.

The bottom line of the fiscal ledger is this fact: Our children, youth, and communities will eventually foot the bill for these cuts. Knowing this, we trust that legislators will find alternative, creative solutions to simply cutting staff as a means to solving the State's fiscal woes.



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**From:** Cynthia Emoto [cynthia@afyhawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2009 1:15 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for OYS Briefing

September 29, 2009

Testimony at a Joint Informational Briefing

Re: Office of Youth Services

Conducted by the House of Representatives Committees on Human Services and Judiciary  
and the Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 (11:00 AM)

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by: Deborah L. K. Spencer-Chun, President and C.E.O., Adult Friends for Youth

Chairs Mizuno, Karamatsu, and Chun Oakland:

Adult Friends for Youth has had serious concerns, since the inception of the Office of Youth Services, that the office has not fully met its mandate to provide a full constellation of services to Hawaii's youth. The widest gap has been service to youth who are at highest risk of behaviors that are self-destructive and destructive to the institutions and communities where they are involved.

Upon the appointment of Martha Torney to direct OYS, things began to change. Her leadership has reflected a more encompassing vision of what OYS needed to produce, and the gap in services to high-risk youth began to close. Ms. Torney, through her long years of experience with very high-risk youth, has seen the promise in them that can be developed into productive outcomes through knowledgeable and skillful programs.

We are fearful that her efforts to broaden the scope of OYS, to what it always should have been, will become meaningless if she has no staff to write, implement, and evaluate proposals, and to monitor grants. We have seen momentum building at OYS to achieve the potential for reaching youth in the greatest need of service and have been hopeful of working with OYS to achieve that potential. In the best interest of the community, we hope that the momentum is not lost, and that OYS program staff will be retained to the extent that the work of OYS on behalf of Hawaii's youth-serving agencies is not impaired.

We hope that the Governor and the legislature will allow OYS time to see if it can accomplish, under its present leadership, the means to meet the needs of Hawaii's young people, and, especially, those in greatest need.

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Tom Brower, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Trancell Ward, Director of Community Services  
Danielle Moskowitz, Vice President of Human Services  
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: September 29, 2009

Re: **Testimony in Support of Office of Youth Services**

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. (Goodwill) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing educational and career development programs. Goodwill works with people who have employment barriers, including welfare dependency, economic and resource barriers, lack of education and/or work experience, illiteracy and disadvantaged at-risk youth. Last year, Goodwill served more than 11,900 individuals throughout the state in its career development and training programs, placing over 1,800 individuals into jobs.

We applaud the legislature for its leadership in the area of supporting Human Services. The Office of Youth Services (OYS) has demonstrated leadership in its innovative programs that support at-risk youth to develop positive behaviors for a healthy, safe life and to prevent delinquency, reduce the incidents of recidivism and to achieve self-sufficiency through adulthood.

Ola I Ka Hana means to "Live and Thrive by the Means of Your Work." Goodwill's Ola I Ka Hana Program (Ola Program) provides at-risk youth ages 15 to 21 with positive developmental programs mainly during traditional school and weekend hours. OYS currently provides critical funding to operate the Ola Program at four locations: Leeward Oahu (Waipahu); Central Oahu (Wahiawa); East Hawaii (Hilo); and West Hawaii (Kona).

The Ola Program combines an approach of teen pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, family strengthening, academic training and life skills development with job training and placement services, computer literacy, employment/technical training and individual mentoring; all of these services are key to addressing important issues such as teen pregnancy and substance abuse prevention and family strengthening. Through program participation, youth are supported in decreasing risk factors, increasing protective factors, and improving character, academic skills, vocational skills, and pursuing and maintaining positive relationships.

Last fiscal year, Goodwill provided academic, life skills training and other services to over 1,215 at-risk, disabled or disadvantaged youth. Goodwill understands the challenges at-risk youth face while also recognizing their potential for success. Most current youth participants have dropped out of school, 30% are parenting or pregnant (90% are currently sexually active), and 80% admit to using illegal drugs. Over half of the youth enter our program with a 4th or 5th grade reading and/or math level, low self-esteem, and no sense of what the future holds for them.

Research indicates that unless “at risk” youth are provided an environment in which risk factors are reduced, that youth will make his or her way into the prison system. Through important OYS funding and support, Goodwill provides an environment where protective factors are achieved. Factors such as personal accountability, self-image, self-esteem, improved GPA, attendance, family relationships, life skills, and better health are a few of the benefits for our youth program participants.

The professional and dedicated OYS staff that support the Ola Program are trained, knowledgeable, and an essential factor which enable the program’s continued success. Effective and continuous inter-agency and service provider collaboration is necessary to promote the development of social, emotional, cognitive, behavioral and moral competencies and resiliency which enables our youth to achieve a successful transition to young adulthood.

Goodwill believes that it is imperative to retain OYS staffing at the current levels. Any elimination of jobs or a reduction in force at OYS will negatively impact the youth programs that it administers and funds. Consequently, any decrease in OYS funding levels will negatively impact Goodwill’s ability to deliver program services to this fragile target population. Our youth are our future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Alan Shim, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment Center (Formerly Children's Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctr. of HI Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kips, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kawai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kunloa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihī Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center - Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

September 29, 2009

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

## Testimony for Informational Briefing on Office of Youth Services

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of 50 youth-serving organizations, is concerned about the effects of the proposed widespread layoffs in the Office of Youth Services.

The Office of Youth Services coordinates an array of essential services for youth-at-risk to prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The OYS focuses on programs that address youths' needs from prevention to incarceration and aftercare including

- Youth Service Centers
- Youth Gang Response System
- Non-Residential and In-Community Services
- Community-based Residential Services
- Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)

Without staff to conduct needs assessment and program planning, and provide contract management, what will happen to these programs? It is possible that the contracts and thus the programs will end, with the likely result that more of our young people will enter the juvenile justice system and some will become adult offenders as well, at much higher expense to the State.

Contract management functions could be transferred elsewhere in the State government. This will mean an increased workload for already stressed

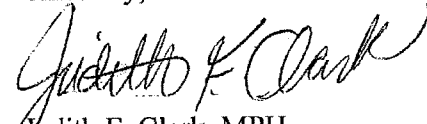


state workers, and less oversight, training, or technical assistance for contractors. The OYS staff members have worked with contractors to build strong programs, and understand the needs and issues of the youth served, as well as the strengths and limitations of the contracting agencies. New contract managers will have a lot to learn very quickly.

Furthermore, much of the funding for these services is federal, not state, money. OYS staff members understand the applicable rules and regulations and have developed strong relationships with key federal staff. Shutting down the Office of Youth Services would jeopardize compliance with federal grant requirements and reduce likelihood of continued funding for essential services for Hawaii's at-risk youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



September 29, 2009

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony for Informational Briefing**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Office of Youth Services**

Aloha all,

I write to advocate for maintaining the current staff and program funding for the Office of Youth Services (OYS). For the past several years, OYS has supported our agency, Hui Malama Learning Center (HMLC) located in Wailuku, Maui. With the funding made available to our agency, it has supported not only key staff of HMLC's Youth Services division, but other personnel which assists offering programs involving music, video, art, and cultural acumen. Since the year 2000, HMLC has served thousands of youth in Maui County

Eliminating staff positions from the Office of Youth Services will entail losing funding from the Network Providers. Without this type of funding, funding that allows many non-profits to provide much needed services to our youth.

The OYS staff is vital to the success of our programs. Members of OYS such as Mr. Merton Chinen, and the late Ms. Cheryl Maae have assisted our agency in providing the best programs for our youth. They not only offer advice, but ideas of how we can assist more youth, develop consistency and heighten our own expectations for our various

programs. Fiscally, they offer their expertise on how best to use the OYS funding to its maximum potential. Their monitoring visits ensure that state funding is used efficiently and wisely to support quality programs.

Respectfully yours,

Patty Hoffman  
Finance & HR Director  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii



September 29, 2009

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony for Informational Briefing**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Office of Youth Services**

Dear Members,

Hui Malama Learning Center would like to offer our comments regarding your Joint Committee's considerations reducing services and jobs under the Office of Youth Services – Department of Human Services.

We are unable to attend the Briefing meeting as we received late notice - our attendance is prohibited by the inability to arrange for travel on such short notice. It is vital that the Committee be aware that cutting the services and jobs (in particular those that provide for HMLC's funding) will have an immediate and devastating effect on our ability to sustain our full range of educational services to our students.

Our students all receive formal education in Science, Math, Language Arts, (Reading and Writing), and Social Studies. However, the key component of our strategically developed curriculum revolves around what our students *do* with the knowledge they gain from our traditional instruction. Our Youth Services program "**Keolapono**" includes preventive information involving good choices, life skills and the component of well rounding their experience with culture, music and technological training.

We appreciate the Committee's need to seek funding cuts and make the tough choices necessary to meet your budgeting obligations – but we humbly ask that members understand that funding cuts in programs such as ours would require years of rebuilding, restructuring and recruiting new students who may be displaced by such loss of funding.

We respectfully ask that this testimony be distributed to members of the Committee if at all possible prior to the Briefing tomorrow at 11:00AM.

**Joint Information Briefing – Committees on Human Services  
(House/Senate), Committee on Judiciary**

Sincerely,

Phil Gagle  
Academic Instructor  
Hui Malama Learning Center



September 29, 2009

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
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**Testimony for Informational Briefing**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Office of Youth Services**

The youth that we serve here at Hui Malama Learning Center on Maui receive support and services that not only help them turn their lives around, but put them on a path to success. We work with students who already have court hearings, probation officers and drug testing mandates who, after coming to our program, are able to remain arrest free and move into secondary educational settings. Our Youth Services staff is college trained in educating and providing a safe environment for the students to learn, and the way they open up emotionally and ask life changing questions is a remarkable thing to see. Without the judgement or blame associated with the behavior, we continually help students improve their lives by modeling positive behaviors and we are able to help them see for themselves the value and worth they contribute to our community. Please continue to support these programs through the funding of the OYS who help us help the students succeed.

Jean Groden  
Academic Director  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Wailuku, HI



September 29, 2009

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
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Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony for Informational Briefing**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Office of Youth Services**

Dear Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the staff, board and students of Hui Malama Learning Center located in Wailuku, on the Island of Maui.

For the past several years, we have worked with the Office of Youth Services, primarily Merton Chin, Programs Officer, to receive critical youth prevention, development and intervention funding for our youth. With the resources, guidance, technical assistance, and training provided by OYS, we have served over 7,000 vulnerable youth between the ages of 11-17. We provide academic and enrichment programs to public school youth during after-school hours when youth are most vulnerable to being influenced and vulnerable to at-risk behaviors. We have developed innovative programming that develops the whole person so that our youth are prepared to successfully transition to adulthood. Through this partnership with OYS, we have been able to leverage other funding and supplement our own academic programs with critical programming that helps our youth to be safe and act in ways that contribute to our community.

The states investment in preventive programming is a fraction of what it will cost to respond to the consequences of ignoring our keiki's needs now. We all need to support our keiki through resources that are available in our community. We service the entire island of Maui by reaching out to youth who have been ignored or rejected by other systems and organizations. Our success is attributable to our partnership with OYS, in that their innovation, insight and expertise has allowed us to develop culturally relevant programming and reach youth that are the most alienated - and thus, most vulnerable. Please support our keiki by supporting the OYS staff so that they may continue to ensure that our youth continue to have safe and enriching activities to make them strong and competent adults. As a tax payer, I am willing to pay more to ensure our youth get the services that they need. Mahalo for your consideration and time,

Sincerely,



V. Pualani Enos  
Executive Director  
Hui Malama Learning Center





September 29, 2009

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
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And members of the Committee on Human Services

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And members of the Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony for Informational Briefing**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Office of Youth Services**

Hui Malama Learning Center, a non-profit learning center located on the island of Maui, currently receives contracts from the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services. These contracts allow us to focus on preventative measures of deviant behaviors for at-risk youth who would not have these services otherwise.

Our Youth Services programming takes place in an academic environment and includes:

- Drug, alcohol, violence and pregnancy prevention
- Cultural programming
- Vocational preparedness
- Placement in one of three tracks (college, career or self-employment)
- GED preparedness
- Music programming
- Reading comprehension
- Video production experience
- Physical fitness and more

Without funding for Hui Malama's youth services programs, these kids would be on the streets, in our judicial systems and without direction and goals for their lives. The kids

who come to Hui Malama have already struggled in the traditional school setting for one reason or another and are no longer enrolled in school. We have seen tremendous improvements in the youth we serve from the time they enroll at Hui Malama to the time they graduate with their GEDs. Often students are initially resistant to participate in our prevention programs however quickly open up to our staff, participate in class and even look forward to going to our school. Once they have been in our programs they are able to analyze life's choices and make positive decisions for themselves and their futures.

Without funding from the Office of Youth Services, Department of Human Services, none of this would be possible. We are very grateful for our funding and the difference it has made for so many youth and families on Maui. In addition, the Office of Youth Services staff have been incredibly helpful and supportive in assisting us in developing our programming and guiding us along the way. Their work is invaluable to the State of Hawaii and the future of Hawaii. We need these programs in order for our state to progress in a direction that is better for everyone.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

Mahalo,



C. Ku'ulei Reeser  
Programs Development Director  
Hui Malama Learning Center

**From:** Charlie Schlather [charlie.schlather@myfs.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2009 10:58 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** Wendy DeCambra; Maelynn Potter; candersson@aloha-house.org; Daryl Selman  
**Subject:** Contract Provider Submission for OYS Informal Briefing 9/30/09  
**Attachments:** BRN\_98821E\_007017.pdf; BRN\_98821E\_007022.pdf; BRN\_98821E\_007024.pdf; BRN\_98821E\_007025.pdf

Dear House of Representatives,

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) provides vital funding for services to Maui County youth, without which the continuum of services on our island will be severely disrupted. The following services are provided by Maui Youth & Family Services (MYFS) via OYS funds:

**Outreach & Advocacy (DHS-08-OYS-22)** - The Outreach and Advocacy program provides time limited case management and referrals for youth ages 11-21 that are identified as being at-risk. This service is essential to youth that are beginning to demonstrate at-risk behavior as they do not typically qualify for higher levels of service within the community. The outreach counselor is available to meet with the youth and their families in their environment and when they are available. This includes after school, evenings and weekends.

**Emergency Residential Services (DHS-08-OYS-49)** – Open to all youth and families in the community. When youth and family are experiencing a crisis and need a time out from one another, youth can access short-term shelter care at one of several MYFS foster homes. Through this service, many families have been able to divert a full blown crisis such as hospitalization, assault of a household member, and running away. While in shelter care, our staff provides assessment and counseling services. This also serves as a starting point for many families to get the help they need. Without this service, youth will have to get the attention of law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, or Child Welfare Services to access safe shelter and divert a crisis.

**Residential Level II (DHS-08-OYS-67)** – Provides out-of-home placement to troubled, abused, neglected, or adjudicated youths ages 12 to 19, who have been identified as high risk in one or more areas of need and are generally unable to function in a pro-social manner without constant supervision and support, assessed as high flight risk, can benefit from highly structured Level II Intensive services. Utilizing our Therapeutic Foster Home model, youth are given a safe and family-like community-based setting and services that will enable them to gain necessary skills to successfully transition into a more permanent living situation.

**Attendant Care (DHS-08-OYS-06)** – Police can refer youth 24/7 who commit status offenses (i.e. runaway, truancy, etc.) in the community and whose parents cannot be located for release. Our program provides a safe and healthful environment while waiting release to parents. Trained staff assess youth's situation and provide appropriate referrals to the community. Without this service, youth will have to be needlessly detained at the police station.

**Pregnancy Prevention (DHS-07-BESSD-4152)** - We provide two curriculums "Making Proud Choice" which is designed for middle school youth and "Be Proud! Be Responsible!" for high school. MPC and BPBR provides adolescents with the knowledge to understanding vulnerability to HIV infection, building knowledge about HIV and AIDS, Building negotiating skills, refusal skills, attitudes and beliefs. The curriculum is designed to empower adolescent to change their behaviors and to decrease their chances of being involved of unintended pregnancies.

**OYS Drug and Violence Prevention Activities (DHS-10-OYS-104)** - All Stars curriculum to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The All Stars curriculum is an evidence based curriculum that develops positive character and positive environments, promotes norms that support the choice to avoid high-risk behaviors, promotes perceptions that high-risk behaviors will interfere with desired and valued lifestyles.

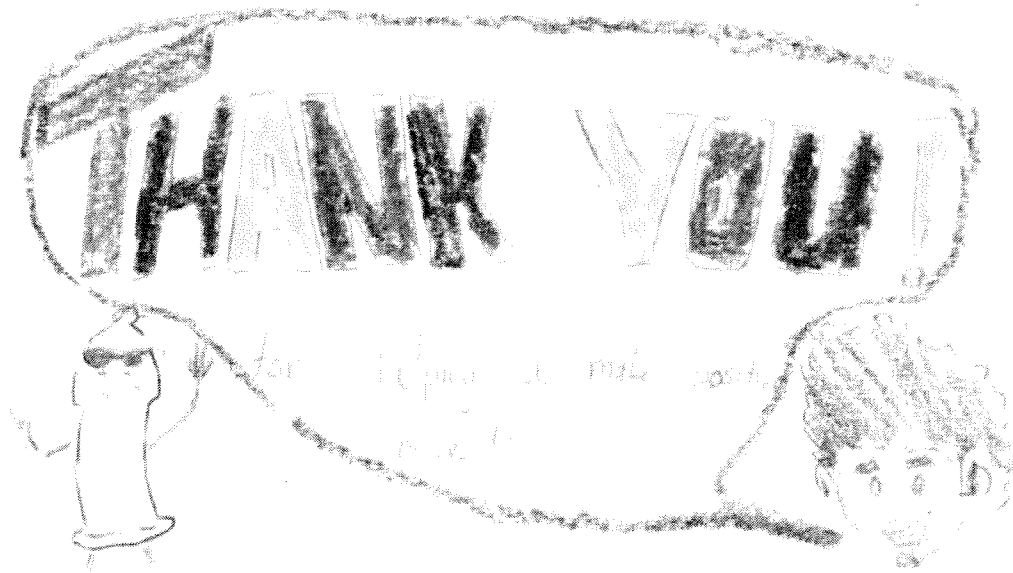
I have attached letters submitted from some of our clients. Please understand that without funding from OYS, Maui County youth like these would simply fall through the cracks. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Mahalo,*

**Charlie Schlather, LCSW**  
Clinical Director



Maui Youth & Family Services  
Phone: 808-579-8414 x 8105



Thank you very much for coming to our 2nd period class & teaching us about STD's and stuff. I think that it's really cool how really you into what you do. I have really gained more information about sex and I think that I've become more wiser towards my decision making. So thanks for everything!

~ Samantha A. ☺

Thank you so much for for informing me  
of all the possible consequences of unprotected  
sex. I am so grateful, you don't know. You  
were the one who taught me about STI's,  
pregnancy, <sup>& ONLY</sup> condoms, etc w/ such powerful &  
precise information, it really got me thinking  
that the world we live in, although great, there can  
be potential viruses that can kill. I am really  
appreciative for the condom demonstration, it was  
refreshing to know that I can be a responsible teen  
and adult later in the future. You have already  
saved many lives... You have indirectly prevented →

teens, young adults from the treacherous  
consequences <sup>of STI's</sup> that include death. Once again  
thank you for the information & life savings  
that you have made in pd 2.

w/ gratitude,  
Caitlyn Mayamich

PS I'm sorry for being so quiet all the time.  
It's of my nature ☹, I express through  
words...

Name Alexcia Shepard Per. 7

What did you learn from the "Be Proud, Be Responsible" lessons? How will you be different in the way you conduct yourself now or for the future. Write a paragraph in a letter format to Michelle.

Dear Michelle,

I can definitely say I've learned a lot more from you than any other health teacher I've had. Some things I've learned would be that you cannot get any HIV, if you don't have sex, or stay abstinent to stay safe. Also that you can get it thru needles, good thing I don't do that kind of thing, but it's still good to know. Also that you can't get it thru kissing (spit), ~~but~~ I thought you could. Also I learned that they don't sometimes have symptoms so it's good to get tested, just to make sure you're clean. Also that you may think someone so clean would never have that but they do, so it's important to discuss these things.

Sincerely,

Alexcia Shepard

To whom this may concern,

I just wanted to thank you for the new computer, it is so important since I am on internet school. Our other computer was used and was beginning to have serious problems and we did not know what we were going to do, so the timing was perfect. This is the first time we have ever had a brand new computer and it works great! I am so grateful for this very generous gift!

I also wanted to mention that I always look forward to hanging out with Mandi, she is always so kind and nice to me. It is great to have someone more mature to hang out with besides my friends. It is great that you have a program like this for children and teens in need. Again thank you so very much!

Sincerely, Cheyenne Guzman.

*Cheyenne Guzman*



**THE MAUI FARM, INC.**  
**P.O. Box 1776**  
**Makawao, Hawaii 96768**

September 29, 2009

Thank you for the invitation to submit testimony for the **Joint Informational Briefing / Hearing HUS-HMS-JUD 09-30-09** to be conducted on September 30, 2009. The Maui Farm, Inc. is a nonprofit organization providing residential services for youth under contract with the Office of Youth Services.

The Office of Youth Services has been recognized as our state's "voice for youth" ages 12 – 22 since the early 1990's when it was legislatively mandated, established, and administratively attached to the Department of Human Services. It has been our experience since then that the majority of DHS purchase of service contracts providing services for this age group have been initiated through the OYS, while the other DHS divisions have focused primarily on ensuring the welfare and safety of younger children. OYS has been an advocate for youth, and has ensured that the needs of youth are not overlooked or under-prioritized within our State.

The OYS continuum of youth services has been developed over the years to include prevention programs, diversion programs, early intervention programs, and residential programs. They have also developed programs to serve youth during placement and upon exit from the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. The importance of providing services that are designed especially to meet the developmental needs of youth in their teenage years cannot be underestimated. Thus the RIF of OYS employees, the possible elimination of the Office and its functions, and the potential for a reduction in OYS contracts that provide services for youth on all islands throughout our State, causes us great concern.

Our young people deserve to have a strong "voice for youth" at the State level that is informed on youth issues, promotes positive youth development programs, and offers intervention programs for at-risk youth and youth from troubled families. If that voice is not provided by the Office of Youth Services, who will you name to be that voice? If the programs supported by OYS contracts are reduced or discontinued, will another state agency be *mandated* to have responsibility to ensure that programs for youth continue to be offered? And will there be a *mandate* that the funds already designated for POS of youth services remain earmarked for youth services? How can we ensure that our youth do not fall through the cracks while we re-examine our priorities for governmental operations and purchased services?

Our statewide youth services system has already undergone significant reductions in programs serving youth following the settlement of the Felix Consent Decree. While it is true that our State developed significant capacity to procure intervention and treatment programs under Felix, that continuum has been systematically dismantled since federal oversight was discontinued, and many programs have been discontinued and/or closed permanently. Please, let us not support the reduction or elimination of additional programs serving our youth. Their needs are growing

during these tough economic times. Service providers and the OYS have invested significant time, energy and monies in developing infrastructure and expertise for the delivery of these programs. Let's work to maintain that infrastructure. Let's do it because it is the right thing to do for our kids.

The Maui Farm is especially concerned with the needs of older transitioning youth, that "gap group" aged 18 – 22, who lack family resources to guide them into young adulthood. These are transitioning foster youth, delinquent and incarcerated youth, youth living on the streets, and other at-risk youth, and they are at high risk for homelessness, substance abuse, unplanned pregnancy, domestic violence, unemployment, law violations and incarceration, poverty, and dependence on entitlement and welfare programs. We as a community can choose to invest resources in these young people on the front-end, and help them to reach their full potential. Or we can choose to defer this priority – and experience tells us we will pay later. OYS has recognized this important need and dedicated resources to addressing the special needs of this age group through independent living programs, and we encourage the State to continue supporting residential programs for this gap group.

The continuum of youth services as developed, procured, implemented, monitored and coordinated under the Office of Youth Services is our best tool for providing prevention, diversion, and intervention programs that touch thousands of youth in our State every year. As you consider the difficult decisions that must be made regarding the fiscal health of our State, and deliberate on the future of the Office of Youth Services and the contracted services they facilitate on behalf of our youth, please keep in mind the critical importance of ensuring that our youth do not fall through the cracks while we re-examine our priorities.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony for today's informational briefing. If I can provide further information or answer any questions, please contact me at (808) 579-8271 or via email at [paula@themauifarm.org](mailto:paula@themauifarm.org).

Sincerely,

*Paula Ambre*

Paula Ambre  
Executive Director

# Moloka'i Community Service Council

Post Office Box 2047 • Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748

•Phone: 808-553-3244 •Fax: 808-553-3370 •E-mail: [mcsc@molokai.org](mailto:mcsc@molokai.org) •Website: [www.molokai.org](http://www.molokai.org)

September 28, 2009

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: September 30, 2009 Informational Hearing on  
Proposed Elimination of the Office of Youth Services (OYS)

Aloha e Chair Mizuno and Chair Oakland:

The Moloka'i Community Service Council (MCSC) is contracted by the Office of Youth Services to provide "front-end" prevention services to help Moloka'i youth avoid delinquency and to reduce the incidence of recidivism. MCSC runs the island's only youth center, which serves children and youths from age 8 to 18.

On an island with few recreational outlets (no movie theaters, water parks, or shopping malls), the Moloka'i Youth Center fills a critical gap. Research has established that children who have a higher number of "preventive factors" in their lives are less likely to lapse into socially deviant behavior, and far more likely to succeed academically. One of the preventive factors identified by this research is the existence of positive alternative activities for youths who might otherwise be tempted to get in trouble with their peers. OYS has partnered with us for almost 10 years to provide positive alternative activities for Moloka'i's children. And our OYS-funded activities have resulted in successful outcomes. Almost 100% of participants have remained arrest-free and stayed in school.

Although our existing contract with OYS might not be affected by the agency's proposed elimination, we would not want to see it closed. First, OYS has a unique mission that would not necessarily survive the transition to another arm of government. Effective preventive services, such as the ones that OYS helps us to provide at the Moloka'i Youth Center, can only be judged based on things that do NOT occur (no arrests, no truancy). The costs to society of eliminating these kinds of programs will only become obvious once they are terminated – and we begin having to pay the costs of anti-social behavior that could have been prevented.

Second, the staff at OYS is uniquely knowledgeable, responsive and supportive when it comes to youth issues. For a rural service provider such as our agency, having a funder like this is invaluable. It will be difficult for providers to build the same working relationship with another

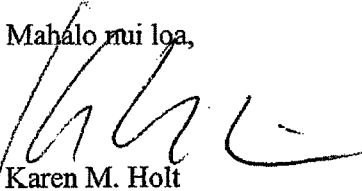
Rep. John Mizuno  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Page 2  
September 28, 2009

branch of government, particularly if the new branch lacks OYS's track record of researching best practices, providing guidance on effective service strategies, and working positively with the people who implement those strategies directly with our youth.

These are hard times for everyone, and we are all making sacrifices to insure that we will survive the crisis intact. But we should not sacrifice the most vulnerable members of our communities in this economic storm. Our children are our collective future. We need a state agency whose specific mission is to insure that our kids will be able to pick up the torch for all of us after the storm finally clears. OYS can do this, and we hope that the State will find a way to continue its operations.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Mahalo nui loa,



Karen M. Holt  
Executive Director

House Committee on Human Services,  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
House Committee on Judiciary

**Joint Informational Briefing on Office of Youth Services (OYS)**  
September 30, 2009, 11AM

Rep. Mizuno, Chair, HUS Committee  
Sen. Chun Oakland, Chair, HMS Committee  
Rep. Karamatsu, Chair, JUD Committee

House & Senate Committee Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you for your time and interest in conducting Information Briefings, such as this one, since this seems to be the only venue available at this time that allows the “*people*” of this State to participate in the governmental decision-making process.

I am recommending that in-depth program evaluation and fiscal auditing be conducted on the existing programs, such as the Office of Youth Services (OYS) that are slated for RIF’s and budget cuts, before efforts are made to save the program. The proposal to RIF the bulk of the OYS staff, which basically will put OYS on hiatus or moratorium status may not be a bad thing.

OYS is statutorily based so it cannot be abolished without going through the legislative process to change or abolish HRS, CH 352D. If the bulk of the staff are RIF’ed and OYS is basically put on hiatus, the statutes that established OYS would continue to be in existence, therefore OYS could be resurrected by the next Administration after the new Governor is elected in 14 months.

Please consider the possibility of allowing OYS to be resurrected with the new Administration. The new Governor will be able to appoint a new Executive Director and the staff positions could be reestablished and funds reallocated in the future. The new Executive Director will then have the discretion to select his/her staff that meet the MQ’s or requisite skills, and they may be better able to fulfill the mandated activities described in CH 352D.

As a former Specialist with OYS, my recommendation is based on the comments I have heard from prominent stakeholders in the community, and on personal experiences with the staff at OYS. Let me share some examples to validate my concerns:

- 1) I have heard a number of complaints from stakeholders in the community that OYS is not effectively conducting a bulk of its mandated duties as stated in HRS, CH 352D. I agree with this comment. For example, OYS is supposed to submit an Annual Report to the Legislature. Please check your records to see when the last Annual Report was submitted to the Legislature? There are other required Legislative Reports, please check the record to see if those were submitted in a timely manner.

- 2) The OYS has become primarily a contracting entity, which is duplicative of other DHS programs. The HRS, CH 352D states that, “the OYS was established to provide services and programs. . .in order to facilitate optimum service delivery, to prevent delinquency, and to reduce incidence of recidivism among juveniles through the provision of prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment services. *The office shall also be responsible for program planning and development, intake / assessment, oversight, as well as consultation, technical assistance, and staff training relating to the delivery of services.* [§352D-4]

The required activities stated in the second statement is the basis for my recommendation that OYS be scrutinized for quality and effectiveness before a decision is made on the future of OYS. For example, how many staff trainings and technical assist activities, relating to the delivery of services, have been offered in the past 2-3 years? Note: Two years ago, the All Providers’ Meeting was conducted for the first time after a moratorium of 4 years!?

- 3) The OYS is supposed to provide continuous program planning, development, and coordination of youth services. [§352D-6 (4)] It took OYS over two years to finally develop a strategic plan. However, how many of the objectives in the strategic plan has been implemented, till date?
- 4) At the programmatic level, how effective can a program be if the Executive Director (ED) and the Acting Program Development Officer (PDO) have the attitude of elitist entitlement because of their positions? The ED has told me on several occasions that as the ED, the Attorney General and State Procurement Office can advise her, but she is the ultimate decision-maker for OYS. I can provide more details on specific contracts where the ED and PDO ignored the AG’s recommendations on specific contracts or has refused to get a legal opinion from the AG. The end-result is the ED’s decision has caused the executed contract to be in violation of federal rules.
- 5) On a more personal level, the Acting PDO has the attitude that since she is in “management” that she doesn’t have to abide by rules and standard protocol. For example, the PDO often has her personal laptop computer right next to her state-issued computer. What is the purpose of a personal laptop computer, except to do personal work during state working hours?

Another example, the PDO accompanied me on two monitoring site visits (on separate days). At both site visits when we got to the youth participant interviews, the PDO left the room right after the interviews started and was on her cell phone throughout the youth interviews. She did not interact, or seem interested in what the youth had to say about the OYS contracted program.

At the second site visit, the PDO disappeared for 20-30 minutes without alerting me or the Program Staff that she was going to go shopping at the Thrift Store next door. The standard protocol when state employees are on site visits is to make sure that if you leave the program site you alert

your partner. Are there different rules for management, where they get to go shopping on state work time if they are not interested in participating in the monitoring activities?

- 6) How effective can the staff be when the ED is not a consistent and objective manager? It is common knowledge that the ED has “favorite” staff who are allowed certain privileges. For example, two staff consistently arrive 30-60 minutes late to work; take 20-30 minute breakfast breaks several times a week; take 2-3 hour lunches; and usually leave at exactly at the time they are supposed. Other staff have commented on their work ethics, but the ED and PDO continues to ignore their lack of work performance, while others are chastised if they are 15 minutes late to work.

These two chronically miss assignment deadlines to the point where it has become a standing joke in the office. When some of their work, such as their contracts got reassigned to me, I was appalled to find that the providers had not been paid for months, or as long as a year. Additionally, the quarterly monitoring reports were not collected as scheduled for up to 1.5 years. How can a specialist vouch that the provider is doing quality work if the specialist doesn't monitor the agency on a regular basis?

- 7) Some of the behaviors and activities allowed at OYS are actually in violation of state ethics rules and HR policies. For example, state employees are supposedly not allowed to be involved with activities for personal gain during state time. In many offices this rule is overlooked when co-workers sell things to each other. However, is it acceptable for a specialist to promote health & beauty products to the providers she manages; or a specialist assist the provider with repairs or computer work, then get paid in cash for the job?
- 8) The final incident is not only poor management style; it hinges on a violation of the employees' constitutional rights. In mid-May 2009, the PDO lost an executed contract. Since she couldn't locate the contract she proceeded to search certain individual's cubicle area for the contact. Some of the staff were at their desk while the PDO searched in the cabinets above their heads and in the file drawer next to their chair. Then the PDO allegedly unlocked a file drawer while the contact assistant was not her cubicle, and proceeded to search the file drawer, removed the working draft copy of the contract ( standard protocol is to keep working drafts) and took it to her office without notifying the contact assistant.

When the contract assistant learned what the PDO had done, she asked for the draft document back. The PDO refused to give it back and accused the contract assistant of having an unauthorized document. The contract assistant reported the incident to the ED. The ED's only comment to the PDO was to make a copy of the document and return it.

The PDO's attitude regarding this incident was, “as management she had the authority to search state property.” I disagreed with the PDO's thinking because: First, the PDO had no ‘cause’ to

conduct an (illegal) search and seizure—she lost the document! Second, the PDO had to give prior notice before conducting the search. The PDO could have injured one of the workers at their cubicle while she conducted her search around them, and the state would have been liable.

I checked with the Civil Rights Commission and I was told that state workers do have a constitutional right to privacy on state property, especially if they are assigned to a particular space and to specific equipment because they are the responsible party for the assigned equipment & space. I am requesting that this incident be further investigated, because the state employees whose cubicles were searched may have ‘cause’ for further litigation since their constitutional rights were violated when the PDO conducted an illegal search and seizure.

Furthermore, if the OYS management assumes that they can violate the state employees’ constitutional rights, it makes me wonder if the constitutional rights of Wards at HYCF are also being violated? Supposedly, state workers are adults and should be able to protect their own rights, but incarcerated youth are often unaware that they have constitutional rights.

In closing, I have heard from several parties that more documentation is needed to ascertain why incidents such as the ones I have just described have been occurring, before efforts for further investigation will be considered. I want to emphasize **that the reasons why the incident occurred**, such as incompetence, or an elitist sense of proprietorship, or a desire for personal gain, **is not the crucial question** when considering whether an incident is actionable and litigation can be pursued. *The legal barometer that is often used is, “to what degree has a violation been committed?”*

Again, I strongly recommend that a program/management audit as well as a fiscal audit be conducted on OYS before any decisions are made on the future of OYS.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter. I hope that you continue to hold Informational Briefings on all of the state programs impacted by budget cuts and potential RIF’s so accurate details on the impact of the impending cuts and lay-offs are clearly identified and shared with the “people” of this state.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Laurie Hirohata, MSW, MEd



→ Room 315



# ALU LIKE, Inc.

*E alu like mai kakou, e na `oiwi o Hawai`i*

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*Ho`āla Hou Department, 458 Keawe Street, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813*

*Phone (808) 535-6789 Fax (808) 524-1533*

## TRANSMITTAL COVER FOR TESTIMONY

TESTIFIER: David Kamiyama, Director  
*Ho`āla Hou (High Risk Reduction) Department*  
ALU LIKE, Inc.  
(808) 535-6785

THE COMMITTEE: Joint Hearing of:  
House of Representatives Committee. on Human Services;  
Senate Committee on Human Services; &  
House of Representatives Committee. on Judiciary

HEARING DATE and TIME: September 30, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

MEASURE: Office of Youth Services (OYS) jobs and contracts

COPIES REQUESTED: Original and one copy

Submitted to State Capitol Room 315



## **ALU LIKE, Inc.**

*E alu like mai kakou, e na `oiwi o Hawai`i*

*Ho`āla Hou Department, 458 Keawe Street, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813*

*Phone (808) 535-6789 Fax (808) 524-1533*

September 30, 2009

Aloha Members of the Human Services and Judiciary Committees:

My name is David Kamiyama. I am the director of several programs in ALU LIKE's Ho`āla Hou Department of ALU LIKE, Inc. that are funded through the Office Of Youth Services (OYS). ALU LIKE has seven Departments that provide services primarily to Native Hawaiians in the areas of Early Childhood, Employment, Career Development, Financial Literacy, Elderly Services, and Library Services. The Ho`āla Hou Department provides services related to reducing high-risk behaviors in several selected high-density Native Hawaiian communities statewide. We provide services to all who meet the high-risk criteria, without regard to their ethnicity.

Today we are testifying in support of the staff of, and the vital services provided through, the Office of Youth Services. We understand the Legislature needs to find ways to reduce costs to the State in the current economic condition. However, we feel that services to our at-risk youths and their families should be a priority in our State. We need to prepare our at-risk youths to enter the adult world as a positive statistic.

ALU LIKE, Inc. provides services, through funding from OYS, in Molokai, Hana, Maui, and at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility in Kailua.

- Molokai site works with high school students who are given 45 - 90 days suspension for drug offenses. The students receive intensive intervention services for 3 weeks. Services include the E Ola Pono and Positive Action Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Curriculums, family Ho`oponopono (to make right) process, tutoring for homework while on suspension, and participation in ho`i ho`i (give back) community service and cultural activities. If the student successfully completes the program he/she is allowed to return to school before the full suspension period is up. In a sample survey of youths who participated in the program and returned to school: 100% improved their grades, 80% improved their attendance, 90% improved their relationship with teachers, 80% became more involved with extracurricular activities, and 100% passed into the next grade or graduated. Because of its success, ALU LIKE has submitted a proposal to the Tobacco Trust Fund to expand services to Molokai Intermediate School.

- HYCF: OYS saw a need to have activities at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) during the weekend and evenings. Activities provided to the youths are Hula, Mele, Oli, Ukulele lessons, and Hawaiian arts & crafts. In our first year of providing services at HYCF, 154 of 184 youths completed the program. The non-completions were due to release from the facility. A

sense of goodness and pride was seen in all who completed the program. ALU LIKE will be doing follow-ups on the youths that completed our first year of providing services at HYCF.

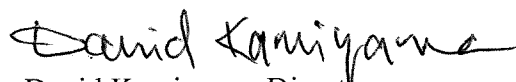
- Hana, Maui site services the community by engaging at-risk youths and their families by providing youth leadership activities, educational development (tutoring) activities, community service and service learning activities, mentoring and intergenerational programs, performing/visual arts and humanities activities and sports fitness and health activities. The Ho'oponopono process is taught to families so problems can be addressed before it becomes entangled. Project youths plan, organize, and implement positive alternative activities for other youths and families in the community. In its 2 years of providing services to the Hana community, 163 youths successfully completed one or more of the activities/programs.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy published *The Comparative Cost and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime*, which analyzed the cost-to benefit ratios of crime prevention and recidivism prevention programs for children, teens, juvenile offenders, and adult offenders. Depending on each program's details, the cost-to benefit ratios for juvenile prevention programs were in the range of 1:2 to 1:5 (or for every dollar invested, the return is 2-5 dollars). And, for teen recidivism prevention programs cost-to benefit ratios were from 1:21 to 1:28.

In conclusion we would like to emphasize that all OYS funded projects, because they work with at-risk youths and their families, are vital to preventing youths from becoming a future negative statistic. Also, we have been very impressed by the gracious assistance from the Executive Director, Martha Torney, and all of her staff at the Office Of Youth Services. The OYS staff is always there when guidance is needed toward servicing the youth of Hawaii. The OYS staff is the backbone in ensuring that we the providers, service the youth and community in a positive manner. The OYS provides youth assessment, advocacy, program development, training, a flow of state funds, communication, vehicles for collaboration, and solicitation of federal funds.

If you have questions about ALU LIKE's services funded through the Office of Youth Services, I will be happy to answer them.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind attention.



David Kamiyama, Director  
Ho'āla Hou Department  
ALU LIKE, Inc.

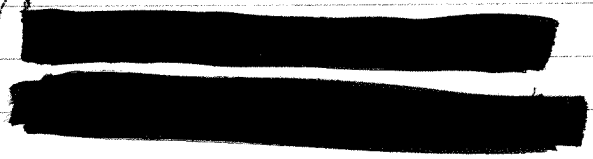
NOTE: At the Hearing 41 letters from youth incarcerated at HYCF, asking that their weekend program not be eliminated will be submitted.

Aug. 31 2009

Dear Governor Linda Lingle,

Please Do not cancel the programs At the Hawaii youth correctional facility like Schooling, Tech Education and other programs Running at HYCF though Sum may Not agree with some of the programs in the end when we get out we are at the least privileged to have free Schooling And knowledge so when we are Released that we have the knowledge to get a Job and would Be able to Succeed in life After HYCF. thats what I think of this Subject I Hope you can think this over and spare the programs we are privileged to have even though at the time we think they are Dumb they Help us later on in life.

Sincerely,

The signature area is redacted with two thick black horizontal bars.

8-31-09

[REDACTED]  
Dear, Ms. Linda Lingle

My name is Kaulana Reinhardt I am from Maui. But as for rite now, I'm in H/CF Doing time for my mistake. But theirs this program called Aha like and they help us alot. Aha like teaches us about our culture and how to respect our selves and others. They help us when we get out of H/CF to find some jobs and help us for Schooling or (College). This is a really good program for kids like us and others. It helps us in many different ways.

So please don't shut down this program, because it will help the next generation after us and other kids in "HAWAII".

From,  
[REDACTED]


8-31-09

I think this program is good because it teaches us Hawaiian language and respect. This program should stay in on continuing to teach us because we wouldn't have these kind of programs all the time. This program could help a lot of other people and we now can take advantage of it because there are other people who would love this program.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
DON'T take it away we need  
help.

To the governor

I am an inmate of hycf.  
I write this letter to you because these programs that you are trying to shut down for us kids, is not really a smart choice. We young people need these programs to help us later in life. The inmates and I look forward to these programs. Because these programs tells us positive things that some of us wish we had when we were on the out. The people who work for these programs also try very hard to show the right path while we are still young. If I did not attend any of these program I wouldn't know how to respect myself and others. please let us keep these programs. so that the next generation has a chance like how I have. So please don't take this chance away for us.






Dear Linda Lingle,

Aug. 31, 09

My name is Quintin Briglin, I am a ward here at HYCF. I have been here for nine months out of one year. I've been going on weekend passes and am transitioning home. I just got my parole date set for September 29, this year. We have a couple of programs that help us out to try and change our lives, we have Hale Kipa, All Like, and YMCA. Thank you for your time give us some funds ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~



TO THE GOVERNOR, WHY WOULD YOU DO  
SUCH THING, BECAUSE ALL THE PROGRAMS  
THAT IS COMING IN HERE IS HELPING  
US OUT WITH OUR GOALS AND OUR FUTURE.  
SO WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT TAKE AWAY  
OUR HELP FROM US AND LET US  
LIVE AND LEARN FROM THEM. THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH. MATHIDIO

August 31, 2009


Dear Governor,

Please don't take the programs away,  
They help us learn and they should stay.  
We youth are the future of this state.  
We need the knowledge, there is no debate.  
Our brains need to be stimulated everyday,  
And programs and activities are just one way.  
Programs teach us a better life,  
A positive one with little strife.  
Please hear us out in this time of need,  
One day this youth will succeed.

Sincerely,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction covers the signature area of the letter.

To, The Governor I think you trying to shut down some of the programs in Hawaii. Would be a bad thing the reasons I think it would be negative is because its the only thing kids in HIJE count on to get out and make a difference in there lives. Programs are the step before some kids in Hawaii gets to get discharged to there homes. Bobby Benson, and other drug treatment programs in Hawaii also helps kids with there alcohol and drug use so shutting down these programs would make a big difference in Hawaii for all the following generations.



8-31-09

Dear, governor Linda Lingle, I  
love u as our governor, and I  
wish I could meet u in person.  
I had a hard life and wish  
to talk to you in person and  
express my feelings. I really need  
to go to a program, because I  
need help to exceed in my  
life. I don't want to fail and  
end up in prison. so I wish  
I can talk to u in person. Thanks  
alot for taking your time and  
reading my letter thank you.

To: governor Linda Lingle

From: 

William

Dear goveRt I need this  
profeme Becaus I need it  
I don't now how to do any  
thing and the program help  
me better.

2/29/09

your Linda loved  
I LIKE To say that ~~and~~ like  
keep us busy and keep  
us out of trouble ok



8/27/07



To The governor why would you want  
to take away programs when you say that  
the father is in the hands of all  
kids and these programs help kids  
in HVCF and other programs to keep  
us out of trouble you say you care  
about Hawaii but yet you want to  
cut some of the programs that  
help the youth and keep us out  
of trouble



8/29/09

I think you  
shouldn't take away  
any like because it's  
helping us stay away  
from trouble and to  
understand MORE about  
our hawaiian culture.

linda lingle, please leave the ukulele program  
because we want to learn how to play the  
ukulele, we are NOT rich old people like you  
I mean how old are you like 60 or 70 or 80.  
But yah please leave this program & go have  
fun camel back riding in the desert & learn  
to play the hard.

Dear Governor of Hawaii,

I believe that these programs are good to have in this correctional facility, because they help us with playing the ukulele and they give us other things to help us with, I don't think you should shut it down.



Dear people of the Government,  
I believe that this group im participating  
in should not be cut because its  
some thing I enjoy. Alulike helps  
me cope with my problems and  
makes my time being incarcerated  
feel alot shorter. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT

I think they should not take this program because it teach us about the Hawaiian culture and also teach us how to chant.

this program in hycf should  
not be taken away cause  
it teaches us how to play music.  
and it calms some of us  
down.

I think it would be very sad to  
take away learnings of ukulele because  
it is fun having music



8/29/09



Dear governor

PLEASE LET THIS PROGRAM  
STAY FOR US TO LEARN NEW THINGS



8-29-09  
JOHN

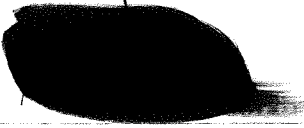
DEAR government i think it wouldn't be  
good if you took away this program because  
we would be board

Dear govener linda lingle I think what  
your doing is wrong we will have nothing else  
to do when we'r locked up but sit down and not  
do anything you should reatly reconsider.

From 

ATTN-govener

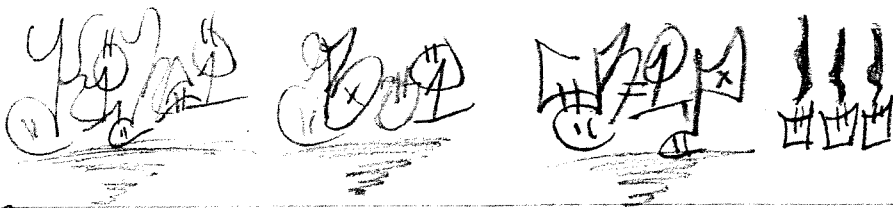
I feel that you shouldn't take away our program because it's helping us learn more. So I am asking you please don't take all like away. Thank you



Dear Linda Lingle I  
think your wrong for taking  
every government program  
because it keeps us  
occupied.

8-29-9

linda linzel I think you shouldn't take  
alolike's program away cause there wouldn't  
be nothing to do in HOOKIPA HLEF. They teach  
us about hawaiian culture and thats my culture



~~Handwritten scribbles~~

DONT TAKE THIS

Program AWAY!!

PLEASE

august 29, 2007

dear governor,

I would feel upset if you were to cut out programs because having programs helps us see that there is more things in life than and that there's places we can go to and get help. Having programs help kids like us because it sets boundaries. I'm having a hard time on getting my life straighten but im going to a program and i feel they can help me get back on track. so programs change many people's life around. some dont cooperate but it just takes time.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature of the letter.


Kealoha

If they stopped the program from  
coming here, I don't think it would  
matter to me. Maybe to some girls  
it would but not to me. I guess the  
programs do help the kids because  
some of us are hard head and think  
we know it all, but really we don't.  
The programs will help us adapt  
to what we need to. depends on  
what kind of program and if  
it would benefit us in anyway or  
educational way.



Dear, Governor Linda Lingle

I know our economy is in a recession and there isn't enough money to go around but our future is still in play. Even though we're looked up here at HVCF, some of these programs are helping our future look brighter, giving us motivation to have a active role in society! please consider my opinion and take it into consideration

  
DJC 1/7

Dear Governor Linda Lingle,

I am writing this letter to explain why I feel programs such as Hale Kipa, YMCA, and especially ALU like must remain servicable to youth of the state.

I am a ward at HICF and these programs that come in to help me and others here have helped me to rehabilitate and become a better person through their services.

Cultural and therapeutic programs are very beneficial and productive and I disagree with these potential cuts. I have learned a lot through these programs and hope they stay running. Thank you.

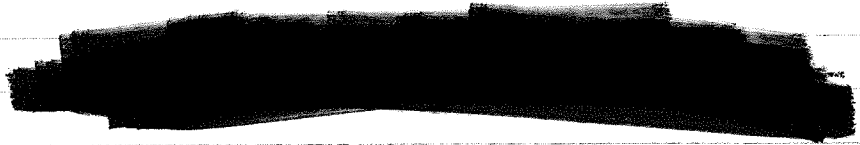
Sincerely yours,

age 17

To Whom it may concern

8/29/09

this letter is to inform that  
I feel that you shouldnt stop  
Hak kipa, Ymca and especially  
Aiu Like from coming to our  
facility to teach and educate us.



dear governer

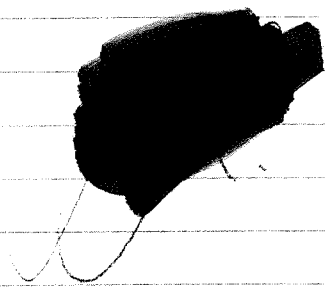
august 27, 2009

I hope that you do not cut our groups!  
we dont have much in this facility and we  
look forward to our groups it gives us  
productive time and allows us to cope  
as well.

Some get close to the group and look  
fascinated to group learning i believe  
you **SHOULD NOT** cut them there only  
teaching and educating us

Governor Linda Lingle

It would be very upsetting if our groups were cut. They teach us a lot of things that will help us in the future. Just by them coming has made me a better person and realize things that blinded me. They've helped me to stay sober. I really appreciate when they come. They will make a difference in the future.



Dear Linda Lingle,

I think that the groups that come to our facility (Hawaii Youth Facility) are very beneficial for us because they teach us a lot of things we never knew before. I think that they are very helpful with Learning Life SKILLS. They are also very supportive with our drug history.

I think if you were to cut them from coming it would not benefit us in anyway. I enjoy the very few groups we have.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature area. A small, handwritten mark resembling a checkmark or the letter 'L' is visible below the redaction.

Dear Lingle (Linda)

i fell if you guys cut out the programs that we have will affect us because they help us look forward to tomorrow and they tell us that we can do it well thats all i have to say.



*[Handwritten signature]*

how we feel about the programs being cut...

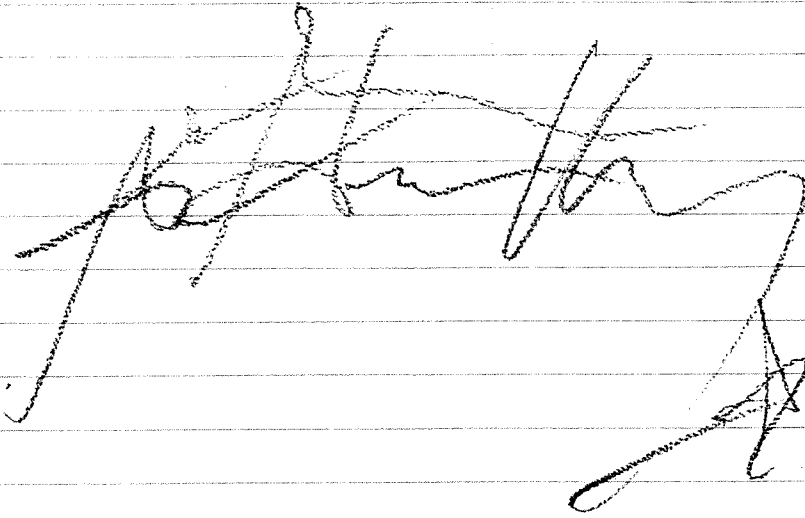
My Opinion....

I think thats unfair.

Truthfully, we all, here @HYCF  
Depend on these programs on behalf  
of our freedom/release.

So on behalf of all of us  
here @ HYCF, dont cut the  
programs, because we Need it!

Thank you





If the government were to cut off our programs and such activities in here, I don't think the kids, or teens, will get the help they need.

Such programs like ALC and TACA help us see that there are more resources out there, and it is possible to become pro-social in other ways besides just drinking, or drug-abuse. I think the government should do more if it were to be cut, the more programs there are the better.

I think that every program help each person to be able to get good support by each program. If they were to try and cut these programs off we would not be properly stable. YMCA programs always help us to try and be drug free and so we don't mess our lives. If they try to take these programs from us we would all be fighting.

Sincerely,



Dear Governor Linda Lingle,

These programs are too helpful to lose. Especially for an incarcerated human being like myself. Other inmates may not agree, but I feel the majority of H.Y.C.F. inmates probably <sup>that</sup> don't want it but they need it which is more important. We are all young adults becoming the next generation, if funding is the problem then what about the funding of life in prison when we are adults that didn't get helping change from these programs. A good investment leads to a good future.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature of the sender.

Dear: Linda, Lingle

Dear Governer I am depending on all the programs to help me in life if you take it away I'll rather die. please dont take the programs away they help me and other wards out alot.

Thankyou for your time

Jay T. Kimura  
Hilo, HI 96720

September 29, 2009

Chair John M. Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,  
Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human  
Services, and  
Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Jay T. Kimura and I am the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i.

I am submitting this testimony as an elected official on the Big Island and as an individual citizen who cares deeply about the youth of our community.

The Big Island is a place of extreme natural beauty and some of the nicest people in the world. But like any community we have our problems or challenges. One of those challenges is creating a safe and nurturing place for our young people to grow up in.

It is no secret that the legislature took bold steps to create a framework in Chapter 352D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and the creation of the Office of Youth Services to help our young people develop into contributing members of our society. Many people have struggled and continue to struggle to give life to the principles and State Policy statements contained in this landmark legislation. I hope we will not lose sight of the strategy and policy set and we can continue to move forward in this difficult time.

With the assistance of the State (OYS) and Federal Government (OJJDP) we have adopted a comprehensive strategy (<http://www.hawaiicountyprosecutor.com/topPages/reports.html>) to addressing our local juvenile justice issues and will continue to work with Governor Lingle through the Office of Youth Services and Mayor Kenoi in implementing our strategy. We will also work with the Legislature in deploying whatever resources can be provided. In 1989 the Legislature found that

“...The State of Hawaii has the responsibility to provide it's youth a fair and full opportunity to reach their full potential and become law abiding citizens of our community by providing and encouraging services which will strengthen their physical, emotional, social, educational and moral development” Chapter 352D-1(1) HRS.

Please be assured that the Hawai'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney will continue to be a willing partner in our efforts to make Hawaii Island a safer and better place to live.