

SB 809



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

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February 9, 2009

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

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

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 809, RELATING TO CHILDREN


Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports SB 809 relating to the establishment of a task force to coordinate resources to benefit children who are homeless. The creation of a task force with representatives from the public and private sector would provide a much needed avenue to address the housing needs of the most vulnerable segment of our population.

The OYS currently contracts with two community-based agencies to provide services for youth experiencing homelessness on the Big Island and Oahu. The services focus on outreach and case advocacy in order to assist youth experiencing homelessness to meet their basic needs, including shelter.

We also request that the OYS be added to the list of a member of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.


OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Legislative Testimony
SB 809
Relating to Children

Date: February 10, 2009 Time: 2:15pm
Room: 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports SB 809 with amendments.**

The purpose of SB 809 is to establish a homeless task force to coordinate resources and services for homeless children. Our children, *nā keiki* is Hawaii's well-spring of life. This beloved generation, regardless of their circumstances, has the potential to overcome adversity, and live a meaningful life. This bill, if passed, can create positive change and transformation in a child. Addressing the needs and developing additional resources for these children will lead to significant outcomes in school, and set them on a path to resiliency.

The recently published, Homeless Service Utilization Report indicates that Native Hawaiians are the largest ethnic group that receives sheltered services statewide. Over 2,000 *keiki* were identified as homeless, and many of them, are between ages of zero to five.

OHA supports the intent of the bill and would like the following to be considered. First, we would like to ensure that the task force includes representation from the Native Hawaiian community, particularly from the Leeward coast area.

It is to our understanding that programs, shelters, and transitional apartments have been built without input or discussion from Leeward community key leaders. For this bill, we would like to suggest members from the community to bring their experiences and knowledge in working with homeless children to discuss the development of culturally-tailored resources and services.

Second, we would like to recommend that supportive mental health services be a part of the task force's discussion. *Keiki* are oftentimes viewed as a "hidden" population, and their psychosocial development do not receive proper attention. Services and resources that are culturally appropriate will help *keiki* to deal with stress, and other factors.

OHA would like to support SB 809 with amendments. Mahalo nui loa for allowing us to provide testimony.

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

Alan Shinn, 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 Pride Center

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. 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

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 Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kanai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kauloa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi 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

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

February 6, 2009

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

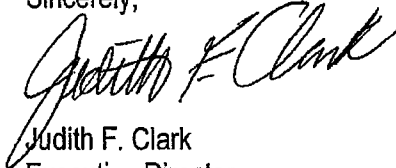
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 809 RELATING TO CHILDREN

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 809 Relating to Relating to Children.

Youth service providers in Hawaii encounter more than 700 young people annually that are runaway or homeless and living separately from their families. To ensure that the task force addresses this population, Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends that at least one member of the group should represent an organization providing shelter, street outreach or transitional living services to runaway, homeless and street youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark
Executive Director



Malama O Kamali'i Makamae

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chairperson
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chairperson
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: D. Keala Naluai, President
Malama O Kamali'i Makamae
PO Box 4982
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2009 @ 2:15 pm. in Room 016

RE: SUPPORT: SENATE BILL 809, "Relating to Children."

We support this Senate Bill 809 and respectfully ask that your committee consider passing this measure in behalf of the young children in our communities, who are in need safe shelters and basic necessities of life, particularly homeless children.

"We have the tremendous responsibility to change the course of the lives of our young children," who desperately need our help. We face the challenges in our society, due to the breakdown of the family from socio-economic decline, drugs/alcohol abuse, promiscuity, violence and even suicide at younger ages. We need to be their advocates, the hands to lift them up and out from their devastating and debilitating circumstances that are affecting all aspects of their existence. These little ones are storing their sub-consciousness memory ALL that they see, hear and do, which will play major parts in shaping their behavior and character, as they get older.

We need to provide better health and nutritional care; innovative social, educational, and cultural services; whereby we can safeguard and care for these children. We need those long-awaited safe havens, learning, and nurturing care centers in our communities today.

"All children deserve our very best efforts and resources. After all, they are our future, but for now they are our responsibility. How we handle this growing issue in Hawaii today will affect many [for] years to come." (I. Kamae, 2004).

We respectfully propose that through your passing of this Senate Bill 809, you will be helping many community and faith-based organizations, businesses and public agencies answer the prayers of several hundreds of little children, by providing the means to establish and implement a variety of services, activities, resources, and facilities for Hawaii's needy children.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 809

February 10, 2009

RELATING TO CHILDREN

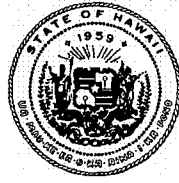
Senate Bill No. 809 establishes a task force to coordinate public and private resources to benefit homeless children, and also establishes and appropriates funds to the Kokua Na Keiki special fund. The special fund is to be administered and expended by the Department of Human Services. The moneys in the special fund shall be used to hire a homeless coordinator, a support staff position, and to provide grants for innovative programs that benefit homeless children or that help coordinate services for the benefit of homeless children. This fund would receive deposits from State and private entities.

We appreciate the intent of this bill. As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should:

1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.

Furthermore, given the State's current financial situation, it does not appear fiscally prudent to establish the task force and special fund if adequate resources are not available to fund any of the initiatives which may be forthcoming.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 10, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 809, RELATING TO CHILDREN

Hearing: February 10, 2009, Tuesday, 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purposes of S.B. 809 are to: 1) establish a task force to coordinate resources for homeless children; 2) establish and appropriate funds to the kokua na keiki special fund to create an administrative grant program for the department of human services to award grants for programs that benefit homeless children.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services is not able to support this bill for the following reasons:

1. The requirement for a task force to coordinate public and private resources to benefit homeless children is restrictive, duplicative and unnecessary since there already is an Interagency Council on Homelessness that can serve that role and provide reports to the Legislature.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

2. We believe that the impact of homelessness is not restricted to children. We should be working to minimize the adverse effects of homelessness to the entire family to truly have a significant and positive impact on the homelessness problem facing our community today.
3. The Department cannot support this measure because it would adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



PROCUREMENT POLICY BOARD
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TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN SERVICES

February 10, 2009

2:15 PM

SB 809

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 809. This bill, in part, creates an administrative grant program for the department of human services to award grants for programs that benefit homeless children.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) testimony is limited to SECTION 3, page 6, lines 15 to 17. The SPO supports the intent of the bill, but does not support any department being exempt from HRS Chapters 103D and 103F to award grants. HRS Chapter 42F sets the process for grants and subsidies, allowing the legislature to authorize grants to providers.

Statutory exemptions are contrary to the procurement laws that promotes an open, fair, and transparent process. HRS §103D-102 on the applicability of the chapter that states in part “. . . shall apply to all procurement contracts made by governmental bodies whether the consideration for the contract is cash, revenues, realizations, receipts, or earnings, . . .” HRS §103F-101 states in part, “shall apply to all contracts made by state agencies to provide health or human services to Hawaii’s residents...”

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Any governmental agency with the authority to expend funds should be in compliance with Chapters 103D and 103F, which promotes the policy of fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement system; fosters effective broad-based competition; and increases public confidence in public procurement. Providing an exemption to any department to award grants would diminish the state's ability to support open, fair competition and transparency in the procurement and contracting process. To the extent agencies may need specific purchases to be exempted from procurement statutes and its rules, both Chapters 103D and 103F provide an exemption process. All public entities must follow the procurement process with one set of statutes and rules.

The Code should not be viewed as an obstacle to a purchasing agency's mission, but rather as the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly. It was the legislature's intent for the Code to be a single source of public procurement policy. If individual agencies are exempted and allowed to develop their own individual processes, it becomes problematic and confusing to vendors, contractors and service providers that must comply with a variety of different processes and standards. Fairness, open competition, a level playing field, and government disclosure and transparency in the procurement and contracting process are vital to good government. For this to be accomplished, we must participate in the process with one set of statutes and rules.

In conclusion, there needs to be one single source of public procurement policy, rather than having multiple policies.

Thank you.