
From: Judith Clark [jclark@hysn.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:45 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony HB 684
Attachments: hb684 minor consent.doc

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2011

TIME: 9:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony is in attached file; also pasted below in case of difficulty with attachment
January 25, 2011

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 684 RELATING TO MINORS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, strongly support HB 684 Relating to Minors.

This bill will increase the safety of minors who are runaway or homeless by allowing them to consent for admission to an emergency youth shelter if their parents/guardians cannot be reached to provide consent or parents refuse shelter but will not allow the youth to return home.

The number of youth in need of shelter who cannot obtain parental consent is small, but the consequences when young people are forced to remain on the street are severe. These youth are at high risk of physical or sexual assault, poor nutrition, inadequate health care, and inability to attend school. Child Welfare Services is usually unable to intervene as it has very specific criteria for opening a case and these situations do not usually meet the threshold.

Admitting a youth to shelter not only assures a safe place to stay, it also allows shelter staff and other service providers to begin to address the family issues that led to the youth's leaving home. Family counseling can be initiated to facilitate the minor's safe return home and, if that is not in the best interests of the child, appropriate alternative housing can be arranged.

This bill grew out of the work of the Safe Shelter for Youth Work Group, established by legislative resolution in 2008. All members of the Work Group agreed that allowing youth to provide informed consent for shelter was a key action to increase the safety of homeless youth.

Please accept my apologies for not appearing in person at this hearing. I am traveling on business on the mainland at present.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

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 House

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

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 Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, 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 (Kualoa-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

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

January 25, 2011

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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please accept my apologies for not appearing in person to testify; I am traveling on HYSN business on the mainland.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

From: Adrienne Suarez [asuarez@halekipa.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 2:45 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony for HB 684 (Hearing: 1/27/11, 9 am)
Attachments: Hale Kipa Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka Testimony for HB684 before HUS.docx

Aloha, Representatives Mizuno and Jordan and staff:

Attached is testimony supporting the intent of HB 684, which is scheduled to be heard tomorrow, January 27, 2011, at 9 a.m., in Room 329, before the House Human Services Committee. The author of the testimony, Hale Kipa's Deputy CEO-Outreach Services, Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, is currently off island and will not be present at the hearing. If you have any questions, please feel free to reply to this e-mail. Thank you!

Adrienne Iwamoto Suarez
Education Researcher
Hale Kipa, Inc.
615 Piikoi Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, HI 96814

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Resources*

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January 26, 2011

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

RE: HB 684, Relating to Minors (Informed Consent for Emergency Shelter)

FROM: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW
Deputy CEO-Outreach Services, Hale Kipa

My name is Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, and I am the Deputy CEO-Outreach Services at Hale Kipa, Inc. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this bill, which allows minors to give informed consent for emergency shelter in programs that possess child placing, child care or foster board licensures. We do want to stress our understanding that this bill *does not* allow minors to give informed consent to access current adult homeless or domestic violence shelter services, an exclusion with which we concur.

We are in support of the intent of this bill, which would allow a minor youth to access emergency shelter via the current emergency shelters for youth, without needing immediate parental consent for him/her to stay at the shelter. We currently accept youth who come to our shelter and generally allow them to stay up to 24 hours while we attempt to locate their parents to obtain consent for a longer stay. While a limited number of youth may enter our shelter without caring about the 24-hour timeline for consent, it is more often seen as a barrier to youth coming off the streets for at least the following reasons:

- Most runaway youth, upon hearing a parent will be immediately called, won't even come into the shelter and thus remain on the streets where they are victim to exploitation and may begin to engage in crimes to support themselves.
- Some youth may come in but will run away in the 24-hour span, as there is not enough time to develop relationships with the staff to encourage them to remain in the shelter and work on their issues.
- It often takes longer to contact parents or work through some initial parental denial of consent and allow for a healthier reunification of the youth with their family.

This bill would at least provide youth respite from the streets and/or from a potentially harmful home environment as well as time to sort out their family situation. It also allows staff to have the opportunity to work with these youth and assist them in returning home or being referred to Child Welfare Services, if warranted.



There are details in this bill that will need more discussion; they include how long the shelter can keep a youth without parental consent, if there any additional liability issues not yet identified, and if there is a need for monies to ensure that there are enough shelter beds open for this population. The bill, however, reflects a good start in removing some immediate barriers to youth coming off of the run and having a safe place to stay while developing a relationship with staff who can assist them with more appropriate living arrangements.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express our general support, and please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW
Deputy CEO-Outreach Services
Hale Kipa, Inc.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 3:20 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: kreardon@pphi.org
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony HB 684 HUS.doc

Testimony for HUS 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM HB684

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Katie Reardon
Organization: Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Address: 1350 S. King Street, Suite 309 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 589-1156
E-mail: kreardon@pphi.org
Submitted on: 1/26/2011

Comments:



1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • www.pphi.org • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

January 26, 2011

To: Chair John Mizuno, Vice Chair Jo Jordan and Members of the House Committee on Human Services
From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 684**

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports HB 684, which allows minors to provide informed consent to enter emergency shelters and access services. We believe that emergency shelters are a crucial part of the safety net needed to care for Hawaii's young people.

Young people become homeless for a variety of reasons. According to the National Runaway Switchboard, the most common reason for young people wanting to runaway or actually leaving home, reported in 26% of cases, was conflict at home.¹ Too often parental or guardian consent is unable to be obtained because a parent is unreachable or unwilling to consent, or reaching out jeopardizes the child's safety and wellbeing. Allowing youth better access to shelters helps them access much needed safety and social services.

In the past, the State of Hawaii has recognized the need to protect the health and well being of young people and has passed laws allowing them to receive basic health care² and family planning and sexual health care³ without the consent of a parent or guardian. Passing HB 684 is a logical step forward towards ensuring that Hawaii's youth population receives the care and services needed to stay safe and go on to build productive and healthy lives. Therefore, PPHI asks this committee to pass HB 684.

¹ See [Why the Run: An In-depth Look at America's Runaway Youth](http://www.nrscrisisline.org/media/whytheyrun/report.html), National Runaway Switchboard, May 2010, <http://www.nrscrisisline.org/media/whytheyrun/report.html>

² See Hawaii Revised Statutes Ch. 577D

³ See Hawaii Revised Statutes Ch. 577A

Honolulu Health Center

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808-589-1149

Kailua Kona Health Center

75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
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808-329-8211

Kahului (Maui) Health Center

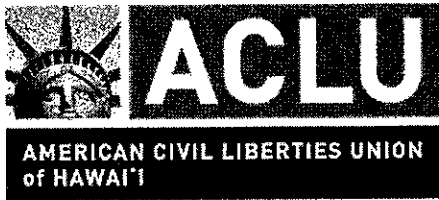
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176
(A Maui United Way Agency)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 11:14 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Cc: lt@acluhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: 1.27.11.pdf

Testimony for HUS 1/27/2011 9:00:00 AM HB684

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurie Temple
Organization: ACLU of Hawaii
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lt@acluhawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/26/2011

Comments:



Committee: Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, January 27, 2011. 9:00 a.m.
Place: Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 684, Relating to Minors

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 684, which allows a minor to give informed consent for emergency shelter and related services.

This bill recognizes that many youth needing emergency shelter simply cannot obtain parental consent and should not be required to have it to obtain emergency services. Children are entitled to similar rights and social benefits as other citizens and should be provided with necessary services rather than forced onto the streets.

Removing potential civil or criminal liability for shelters that are otherwise able to satisfy the emergency needs of runaway or abandoned youth will provide much needed support to shelters, and, most importantly, to the children who will finally be able to access the help that they need.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawai'i

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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