



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**  
707 Richards Street, Suite 525  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 20, 2014

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: HB 1697, HD1 – Relating to Youth**

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2014, 11:00 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of HB 1697, HD1 is to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can safely access and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** OYS supports HB 1697, HD1 Relating to Youth, however, we recommend a change in the definition of "young adult". Under HB 1697, HD1, young adult is defined as a person less than twenty-one years of age. We suggest a clarification in defining "young adult" to mean a person between the ages of 18 years and 20 years old.

HB 1697, HD1 also provides for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through the system in order to engage in needed services through outreach and advocacy. In addition, the OYS funds 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. HB 1697, HD1 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth.

The fiscal implications of this bill are contingent on the funding allocated by Legislature. The approximate costs associated with this five-year pilot program are based on the national Safe Place model, and are as follows:

- Year 1 = \$53,364, Planning and Development
  - Year 2 = \$158,414, Implementation – Oahu
  - Year 3 = \$174,864, Expansion to Hawaii Island
  - Year 4 = \$186,614, Expansion to Maui and Kauai
  - Year 5 = \$195,714, Statewide implementation to include travel and training
- TOTAL = \$768,714 for the 5 years

Prevention is a critical component in the juvenile justice continuum of services, and this safe place model, by providing youth access to help, advice and guidance before their problems escalate into possible delinquent behaviors, will serve such a purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



## **PARTNERS IN CARE**

### **Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers**

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#### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697: RELATING TO YOUTH**

**TO:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair; Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair; and members of the House Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Jenny Lee, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Partners In Care

**Hearing:** **Friday, February 21, 2014, 11:00 AM, Room 308**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of House Bill 1697, creating a five-year safe places for youth pilot program. This program would establish a network of safe places where youth can ask for help and access the services and support that they need. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am an Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness.

Through a safe places program, Hawai'i's youth facing crisis situations would have a place to turn for immediate help and safety at any hour. Partners In Care supports the creation of a network of safe places as a means to prevent youth homelessness. Service providers who work with unaccompanied and homeless young people have indicated that such a program could help ensure youth are connected with effective services before they run away and become homeless.

Many youth run away due to family problems such as abuse, neglect, or an inability to cope with a family member's substance use or mental illness. Children may also be pushed out of their home due to conflict or their family's inability to provide or care for them. Others may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, mental illness, or substance use disorders. A safe places program would target these vulnerable young people and help provide them and their families with appropriate services and follow-up support.

Without appropriate intervention, a runaway youth is at serious risk of homelessness. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 8 and 10 will run away at some point. Studies have also shown that youth ages 12 to 17 are at greater risk of homelessness than adults. Once a youth has become homeless, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Homeless youth are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are at greater risk of mental health struggles, including severe anxiety, depression, and suicide. Some turn to selling drugs or prostitution just to survive. They also face substantial barriers to continuing their education: three-quarters of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school. These sad consequences can have a lifelong impact that may never be fully overcome.

PIC believes that a safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness. Again, thank you for providing Partners In Care the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1697.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

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*Partners In Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on Oahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on Oahu.*

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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

Daryl Selman, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
Aloha House  
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Courage House Hawaii  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Programs Hawaii  
Family Support Hawaii  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Hawaii Behavioral Health  
Hawaii Student Television  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition  
Hina Mauka Teen Care  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kaanalike  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihi Valley  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
REAL  
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.  
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.  
Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center  
The Catalyst Group  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Kauai

February 19, 2014

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697 HD !RELATING TO YOUTH**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1697 HD 1 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol in October. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012 and 2013, indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address such issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble and avoid unnecessary arrests for status offenses.

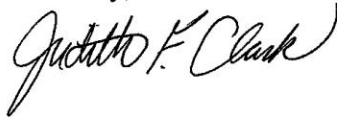
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling man them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

# Community Alliance for Mental Health

February, 20, 2014

## Board of Directors

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To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: HB1697, HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we support the passage of HB1697, HD1.

The concept of a Youth Safe Place is brilliant! Young people need a place where they can go and relax in a safe and healthy environment. Beyond that they need a place where they can learn how to reach out for help in relative privacy.

I speak from personal experience that they also need counselling which is not available in the schools. I have spoken to dozens of high school classes and in not a single one did I not hear of one of their peers that had committed suicide. This situation is simply unacceptable. Most of these young people died because of romantic issues as old as time but surely nothing that should bring about the loss of a child with a bright future.

The Youth Safe Place will take a healthy and controlled step towards curbing these deaths by providing a talented and educated staff that can help these troubled youth find their way through the issues that plague them.

Scott Wall  
VP/ Legislative Advocate  
Community Alliance for Mental Health



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 21, 2014, 11:00 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.B. 1697, HD1

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) writes in support of H.B. 1697, HD1, which seeks to create a safe places for youth pilot program. PPHI is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy and we believe that a safe places program will have a positive impact on the health of our young people. This program will coordinate a network of local places where youth can safely access advice, guidance, programs and services. The proposed network is based on a National Safe Place model in which community businesses, such as a nearby store, are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency.

The Safe Places program will allow young people the opportunity to deal with issues like peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect and substance abuse in an easily accessible, safe, and confidential environment. Safe places will give young people the opportunity to obtain the best information and tools that they need to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laurie A. Temple  
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

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1350 S. King Street, Suite 310  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
808-589-1149

**KAUAI**  
357 Rice Street, Suite 101  
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808-482-2756

**KONA**  
Hualalai Medical Center  
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
808-329-8211

**MAUI**  
Kahului Office Center  
140 Ho’ohana Street, Suite 303  
Kahului, HI 96732  
808-871-1176



# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/email: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Friday, February 21, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

## SUPPORT HB 1697 HD1 - SAFE PLACES FOR YOUTH

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 1697 HD1 requires the office of youth services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services and establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator with rules to allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure that was conceived by Hawai'i youth. The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. This is so important in helping our youth address issues like peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse, and substance abuse in a safe and supportive environment.

The program now needs appropriate funding to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, training for youth workers, and coordination among the various providers. It will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

Herbert Hoover said, **"Children are our greatest natural resource."** Please honor them by passing this bill!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** anahakirecords@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1697 on Feb 21, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1697**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanohowailuku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**finance8-Danyl**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:27 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** toolohana@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1697 on Feb 21, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1697**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurence Tool	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Members, I support this measure. Protecting youth is a critical responsibility. Youth services need constant updating and creativity. This is a worthy proposal. It should be given a chance. Please pass this bill. Mahalo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

Noelani Macugay  
2591 Dole St Apt G111  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Telephone: (916) 402-0895

Friday, February 21, 2014

Support for H.B. No. 1697, H.D. 1, Relating to Youth

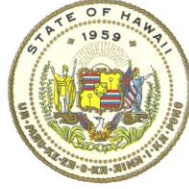
My name is Noelani Macugay, and I am a student at University of Hawaii at Mānoa for the School of Social Work. Due to my experiences in previous work at multiple high schools, I am testifying **in support** of H.B. No. 1697, H.D.1, Relating to Youth, which requires the office of youth services to coordinate a safe places pilot program for youth, establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator, and establishes rules to allow minors to consent to enter the program.

As a social worker, I have had the opportunity to work in several high schools. Although some of my clients (students) felt comfortable speaking to the social workers about their issues, they were only provided that comfort during the school day, as it was a school-based program. When I would check-in with my clients some days, they would tell me that they “did not have anyone or anywhere to go last night,” and they wished that our school-based agency was available after school, when they really needed it (i.e., when experiencing domestic violence, when feeling the need to self-harm, or when being pressured by other youth to use drugs). What I appreciate about this act is that it specifies to coordinate a “*network* of safe places,” where youth can access the necessary services, regardless of whether it is during school or not. Youth will be able to access, or get linked to, a variety of services within this safe places pilot program.

Although some may argue that there are other means of finding comfort and safety (e.g., police, teacher/counselor, Child Protective Services, family members, or other authority figures), there is a concern in whether or not the youth can really confide in the resources they are given after discussing their issue(s). It is also a concern to expect youth to know how to access the services available. This bill addresses both concerns in Section 2, b (3) and (4); the program coordinator is to provide proper and appropriate training to school personnel, community members and providers of these safe places, as well as bring awareness to how to access these safe places through partnering with the department of education, other youth service agencies, and Hawaii state youth council. The pilot program will be well-rounded, properly trained, and readily available to effectively help youth in preventing homelessness, child abuse, human trafficking, suicide, self-harm, teen pregnancy, dating violence. It will additionally provide youth support in trauma recovery, alcohol and substance abuse cessation, behavioral health counseling, educational goal achievement, and life skills training.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 1697, H.D. 1!

Sincerely,  
Noelani Macugay, BSW  
UH Mānoa MSW Candidate, 2014



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**  
707 Richards Street, Suite 525  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



February 20, 2014

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1697, HD1 – Relating to Youth**

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2014, 11:00 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of HB 1697, HD1 is to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can safely access and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** OYS supports HB 1697, HD1 Relating to Youth. HB 1697, HD1 provides for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through the system in order to engage in needed services through outreach and advocacy. In addition, the OYS funds 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. HB 1697, HD1 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth.

The fiscal implications of this bill are contingent on the funding allocated by Legislature. The approximate costs associated with this five-year pilot program are based on the national Safe Place model, and are as follows:

- Year 1 = \$53,364, Planning and Development
- Year 2 = \$158,414, Implementation – Oahu
- Year 3 = \$174,864, Expansion to Hawaii Island

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
February 20, 2014  
Page 2

- Year 4 = \$186,614, Expansion to Maui and Kauai
  - Year 5 = \$195,714, Statewide implementation to include travel and training
- TOTAL = \$768,714 for the 5 years

Prevention is a critical component in the juvenile justice continuum of services, and this safe place model, by providing youth access to help, advice and guidance before their problems escalate into possible delinquent behaviors, will serve such a purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**LATE**



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

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**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1697, HD1, RELATING TO YOUTH**

**House Committee on Finance**  
**Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair**  
**Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**  
**Hon. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 21, 2014, 11:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 1697, HD1, relating to youth.

As advocates for survivors of human trafficking, we've encountered numerous minors while conducting outreach to victims. Sadly, many of these victims are misidentified as status offenders by law enforcement, who then subject them to detainment, arrest, and the legal protocols of family court. These children often, but not always, come from broken or abusive homes. What *is* almost always true, however, is that, once on the run, these kids are targeted by pimps and sex traffickers seeking to exploit their youth for financial gain. We feel that creating a network of "safe places" for the provision of counseling and information about available services would help address our victims' needs—especially with regard to psychological treatment and trauma care—by linking together existing services under a coordinated umbrella. That said, we urge you to be vigilant about safeguarding against lapses in privacy protection when information is shared between agencies participating in the pilot program, since such lapses could jeopardize the safety of victims and disincentivize utilization of the program's resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Legislative Director*

**LATE**

**To:** Mele Carroll, Chair and all members of the House Committee on Human Services

**From:** Bree Thuston

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

**Subject:** HB 1697, relating to youth

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2014

My name is Bree Thuston, and I am a master's student from the Myron B. Thompson school of Social Work. I stand in support of House Bill 1697 HD 1. Minors need to have a safe place to run to, with positive influence. These at risk youth, know that they contain that label. Because that label is placed on them, they think that is their worth. They need to have positive facilities to go to, because ultimately that may be the only positive support they have.

These safe facilities will help at risk youth to refrain from negative influence. The negative influence that is within our community will continue to rise if we do not have these types of preventative programs. These facilities are imperative to help our at risk youth to thrive and grow, and making Hawaii's community a safer place.

I have worked first hand with at risk youth, who could have benefited from this type of program. To help them see their worth, and to have a constant positive role model in their life. We need to help guide these at risk youth to be contributing members of our society. I strongly support this bill, and need your help to see it pass. Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to testify in **support** of **HB 1697**.

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII  
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN SUPPORT OF H.B. NO. 1697, HD 1**

February 21, 2014  
11:00 a.m.

To: Chairperson Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in Support of H.B. No. 1697, HD 1.

HAJ is in support of the concept of developing a program to provide safe places for youth. Initially, HAJ was opposed only to the immunity provision in the original bill which was deleted in the HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and listening to our concerns and comments.



February 21, 2014

Ellen K. Awai  
3329 Kanaina Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
[Awai76@aol.com](mailto:Awai76@aol.com)

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair of the Finance Committee & Members  
Hearing on Friday, February 21, 2014, 11:00 a.m. in Room #308

SUBJECT: HB1697 HD1 Relating to Youth's Safe Places, Please support!

As a member of various health taskforces and a previous volunteer and attendee of the 2012 annual children and youth summit, I am in strong support of this bill to create a youth safe places program. With a master of science in Criminal Justice Administration (MSCJA) from Chaminade University, I am a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. I have also been an exempt employee with Hawaii's Adult Mental Health Division training certified peer specialists, individuals with lived experiences throughout the state and have heard from various people.

In 2005, when I became a member of the SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services, National Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Consumer Survivor Issues, a huge concern was about the mental health access for youth up to 25 years old. Programs such as "What a Difference a Friend Makes!" and other federal programs addressing teen suicide and bullying have come out of Washington DC years ago, but has slowly affected Hawaii. President Obama's Affordable Care Act was directed to increase enrollment of youth to get insurance and seek treatment. Trauma experiences in our youth are very important factors in guiding a person's future, safe places are needed for everyone.

My 28-year-old daughter has told me stories that most individuals are not even aware of. Issues of drug abuse, teenagers being forced into drug and sex trafficking are rampant. Family members have nowhere to turn for help fearing retaliation from people in their own community. In schools, there are cases of bullying and suicides, where teachers, counselors, and administration may not address the problem properly. Even colleges face a high rate of suicide because of educational or relationship failures. From recent mass shootings, campus health centers have not been effective. Please support bill HB1697 HD1!

Mahalo and Aloha!



Ellen K. Awai, MSCJA, BBA, CPRP, HCPS  
Behavioral Health Advocate

**LATE TESTIMONY**