



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance**

The Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Hon. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 20, 2014  
12:00 p.m. – Agenda #2  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

By  
R. Mark Browning  
Deputy Chief Judge, Senior Family Judge  
Family Court of the First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2037, HD1, Relating to Project Kealahou

**Purpose:** Appropriates monies for the continued funding of Project Kealahou, within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health division of the Department of Health.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 2037, House Draft 1, which will enable Project Kealahou to continue operating after a six year appropriation of federal funds ends this year.

Several years ago, when the family court began researching the need for a Girls Court, two primary findings became clear early in our research: (1) nearly all of the girls in the court system, regardless of age, had suffered major trauma and were exhibiting acting out behaviors in an effort to cope with the past trauma and (2) the juvenile justice system, developed in response to boys' misbehaviors, had very little expertise when it came to dealing with girls.

Project Kealahou has and continues to address these two findings. The program has and continues to provide valuable services to girls who have suffered from child abuse/neglect,



House Bill No. 2037, H.D.1, Relating to Project Kealahou  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.  
Page 2

bullying, domestic violence, date rape, exploitation by older men in the sex trade, and human trafficking. Project Kealahou provides a spectrum of services including specialized therapy as well as in-community, holistic strategies such as mentoring and peer support. Of equal importance to their direct service delivery, Project Kealahou has also begun very important steps to share their hard earned expertise by writing curriculum for professional training and have begun plans to offer this training to other service providers.

Project Kealahou is an important partner to the family court. Failure to fund its continuation will result in the loss of crucial expertise and will deprive critical services to our most vulnerable youth. Such loss will result in human and economic losses for the youth and our community. We respectfully request passage of this bill with an approved appropriation amount and that the funding become effective in the state's next fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

February 20, 2014

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance

Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

Re: HB 2037, HD1– Relating to Project Kealahou – Support  
Committee on Finance (Agenda #2) – February 20, 2014, 12 p.m. – Conference Rm. 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vices Chair Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the committee:

My name is Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of O'ahu, testifying in support for HB 2037, HD1, to appropriate \$50,000 in funding for Project Kealahou.

Project Kealahou is a federally funded initiative that bridges juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, and education systems to bring life skills and build support for girls between ages 11 to 18 who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. The program helps adolescent girls reconnect with their land, themselves, and their families through activities such as Girls Circle, individual support and mentoring and other group activities.

We firmly believe this legislative appropriation is much needed to preserve this safety net and to connect gaps in funding that provides service to girls connected with Project Kealahou. For these reasons, we humbly urge members of this committee to pass this bill.

Since its founding in 1900, the YWCA of O'ahu exists to cultivate opportunities for women's and girls' growth and leadership, to help them create fulfilling lives for themselves and their families, and facilitating social change with positive economic impact for their communities.

Sincerely,



Noriko Namiki  
CEO  
YWCA of O'ahu

for every woman

**finance8-Danyl**

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**From:** Janelle Shimooka <jshimooka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:56 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449

Feb. 18, 2014



To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded.

Signed,  
Janelle Shimooka

Pearl City, Hawaii

**finance8-Danyl**

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**LATE**

**From:** Ruth <lamer74@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou  
**Importance:** High

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded.

Signed,

Name: Ruth LaMer

City/Town:Honolulu, Hawaii

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# 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)

- 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 Mo'ohala Behavioral Health
- KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project
- Kids Hurt Too
- Kokua Kalihī 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 18, 2014

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

## Testimony in Support of HB 2037 HD 1 Relating to Project Kealahou

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2037 HD 1 Relating to Project Kealahou.

Project Kealahou provides mental health and family support services to girls who have experienced trauma. The program is currently funded through a federal grant that will be phased out.

Funding from the Hawaii Legislature will allow this effective, evidence-informed program to continue to provide therapy and education to the girls and their families, which results in better parent/child communication and increased school attendance. The program reduces the risk of suicide and family violence as well as future involvement in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

I have served on the Executive Committee for Project Kealahou for the past 5 years and have seen the positive effects on the youth and their families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director





NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Finance**

**HB2037 HD1, Relating to Project Kealahou**

**Testimony of Lynn Fallin**  
**Deputy Director of Behavioral Health**

**February 20, 2014, 12:00 P.M., Room 308**

1 **Department’s Position:** The Department of Health supports this bill provided that its passage does not  
2 replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$166,701

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to ensure the continuation of Project  
5 Kealahou (“new pathways” in Hawaiian), a six-year federally-funded grant. The funding will allow the  
6 project to continue its mission to provide girls with a community-based, individualized, culturally and  
7 linguistically competent, family-driven, youth-guided, and evidence based services as federal funding  
8 incrementally steps down.

9 Project Kealahou emphasizes gender-responsive and trauma-informed care when serving its  
10 target audience of adolescent females age eleven through twenty-one who have experienced significant  
11 trauma in their lives. Project Kealahou offers a relatively low-cost array of community—based services  
12 and supports that provide cost-effective deterrents and alternatives to more expensive and disruptive out-  
13 of- home placements for youth and a range of cultural and recreational community-based group  
14 activities to help youth and their families.

*Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness*



1 Project Kealahou was developed by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the  
2 Department of Health in response to broad recognition among leaders and workers in Hawaii's public  
3 child-serving system that established treatment programs do not adequately address challenges  
4 encountered by adolescent girls.

5 Over the past 3 years, 150 girls have been served. Data collected to date indicate that the  
6 program is effective at engaging youth, improving girls' functioning and at reducing the strain felt by  
7 their parents. Without additional funding, some of the clinical services will be reduced. Continuing the  
8 full program will mean continuing to serve all the families and obtaining more information about what is  
9 effective with girls in the targeted population.

10 Currently Project Kealahou is funded through a federal grant. As we near the end of the grant,  
11 the amount of the grant has been incrementally reduced and will fully expire in 2016. To continue  
12 working with the target population of traumatized girls, we are requesting that Project Kealahou  
13 maintain its full staffing complement in the next year. Without additional funds, we will need to let go of  
14 three experienced Intensive Support Workers. The personnel costs for maintaining the three positions  
15 are \$216,701 (base salary of \$45,000 each, 42.04% fringe, and 13.01% indirect cost). The Executive  
16 Budget Request to the 2014 Legislature for the Department of Health requests a \$50,000 appropriation  
17 to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (HTH 460) for Project Kealahou. With the  
18 Governor's \$50,000 budget request, \$166,701 is necessary to keep the three Intensive Support Workers  
19 in our communities working with girls with trauma.

20 We appreciate and thank the Women's Legislative Caucus for championing this important  
21 program. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Kim, Toney <Toney.Kim@doh.hawaii.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:09 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449

As a community member and social worker, I am a big supporter of child and family services. I would like to see Project Kealahou continue in its work helping Hawai'i ohana. There services and workers address trauma specific and gender-based issues that our young women need great support in. I hope that PK's advocacy sustains in the future.

Mahalo nui

Toney Kaipo Kim  
Kaimuki resident, local citizen

**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** Chia Granda <chiagranda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** IN support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449

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Feb. 14, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed,

Name: Chia Granda, MD

City/Town: Kapa'a, Hawaii

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## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Megan Taddonio <megantaddonio@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 6:49 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of the bill to provide funding for Project Kealahou. I believe it is important to provide trauma services to our young women who have experienced trauma. I have seen this program greatly improve the quality of life for girls here in Hawaii. I have seen first hand how this program has helped turn around the lives of so many girl's who were headed down a dark path. Trauma survivors are resilient, but they need the support, counseling, and hand up that Project Kealahou can provide in order to heal and become contributing members of in our communities. Please provide the funding for gender specific trauma informed programs like Project Kealahou.

Sincerely,

Megan Taddonio  
Voting citizen in the Kaimuki neighborhood

Feb. 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed, *Tabitha Rhodes-Nakahara*

Name: *Tabitha Rhodes-Nakahara*

City/Town: *Wahiawa*

Feb. 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed,

*Deise Nakahara*

Name:

*Deise K. Nakahara*

City/Town:

*Wahiaua*

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Brooke Kemsley <bkemsley@halekipa.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 15, 2014 10:00 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** HB2037 HD1/SB2449

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February 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded. As a young girl growing up in Hawaii I would have benefited greatly from this program. Now, as a provider in Social Services I am very grateful we have culturally based programs such as Kealahou available for our young women and girls. I have hope that resources such as this will continue to flourish and promote healing in Hawaii so that one day the extreme need for Social Services may decrease as we move toward a state comprised of happier and healthy families.

Signed,

Brooke Kemsley

Kaneohe, HI

## FIN-Jo

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**From:** Charlotte Kamauoha <ckamauoha@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 7:36 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449

To whom it may concern,

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I strongly support this bill because this unique program provides hope and healing in a trauma-informed, gender specific way for Hawaii's girls. I want to see Project Kealahou continue, and even be expanded to provide services throughout the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Kamauoha  
56-132 Huehu Place  
Kahuku, HI 96731

(808) 636-5040  
[ckamauoha@gmail.com](mailto:ckamauoha@gmail.com)

**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 12:19 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** cymbase@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM

**HB2037**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: I'm not a medical or social work professional, but I am familiar with Project Kealahou and what they offer the girls of Hawaii. I believe whole-heartedly that their gender-responsive care in a trauma-informed environment is working, and this small appropriation to continue its services will greatly benefit the girls currently enrolled, as well as the many who continue to be referred (and self referred) to the project. I thank you for the opportunity submit written testimony in support of HB2037 HD1.

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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:23 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kat.caphi@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM

**HB2037**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014  
Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments: Please support Project Kealahou that helps and supports our girls! What a great investment in social capital!

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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**From:** Julia Rocca <julia.rocca@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:55 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony; WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449



Feb. 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. As a clinical psychologist I understand that trauma informed care is an important priority for the youth of our state. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed,  
Julia Rocca, PsyD  
Kaimuki