



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

**Written Testimony in Support of
HB 2659 Relating to Juvenile Justice**

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**February 6, 2014
9:30 a.m. Room 329**

Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and members of the House Human Services Committee, thank you for scheduling a hearing on HB 2659 Relating to Juvenile Justice.

The Office of the Governor submits written testimony in **support** of HB 2659 Relating to Juvenile Justice. This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of Youth Services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

Due to the timing of submitting our supplemental budget to the Legislature in December, we did not have an opportunity to review this appropriation request from the Juvenile Justice working group in time to include in the executive budget. However, this request supports the policy recommendations proposed in HB 2490 and is an essential part of reforming our juvenile justice system. This appropriation will be used to fund treatment services for court-involved youth or youth who are on probation and give our Family Court judges additional options to refer troubled youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2659.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. GILL
ACTING 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 Human Services

HB2659, Relating to Juvenile Justice

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

February 06, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Room 329

1 **Department's Position:** We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely
2 impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Amount of fiscal impact unknown.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure appropriates funds to the office of youth services to contract
5 for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and practices proven to reduce recidivism among
6 court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

7 The department of health supports the work of, and appreciates serving on, the Hawaii Juvenile
8 Justice Working Group which helped develop this measure and others, to implement the Working
9 Group's recommendations to enhance the juvenile justice system.

10 The department supports provision of behavioral health services to youth with mental health and
11 substance abuse challenges. The department has an array of substance abuse treatment services and
12 mental health services, including evidence based programs and services.

13 We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Mele Carroll, Chair

The Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 6, 2014

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

By

R. Mark Browning

Deputy Chief Judge, Senior Family Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2659, Relating to Juvenile Justice.

Purpose: Appropriates moneys to the office of youth services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports passage of this bill appropriating funds to the Department of Human Services/Office of Youth Services to contract for mental health, substance abuse, and other practices in aid of reducing recidivism for youth on probation.

The Hawaii Juvenile Justice Working Group was established in August of 2013 by Governor Neil Abercrombie, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, and House Speaker Joseph Souki. The mission of the Working Group was “to develop policy recommendations that will accelerate reductions in the state’s use of secure beds for lower-level juvenile offenders while protecting public safety and increasing positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities. The Working Group was charged with analyzing Hawaii’s data, policies, and practices; reviewing research on evidence-based principles and national best practices; and recommending policies that will move Hawaii toward a more effective, equitable and efficient juvenile justice system (2).” The Working Group’s Final Report was completed on December 13, 2013.



This bill addresses a number of the Working Group's recommendations, including:

- Recommendation 1: Focus HYCF Beds on More Serious Youth (11).
- Recommendation 2: Reinvest the Savings in Local Alternatives (11).
- Recommendation 3: Provide Funding for Critical Treatment and Services in Communities (12).
- Recommendation 4: Refocus Efforts on Substance Abuse Needs (12).
- Recommendation 17: Create Graduated Sanctions and Incentives for Probated Youth (16).
- Recommendation 18: Invest in Proven Practices to Reduce Reoffending (16-17).

The Final Report contains the good news that both arrests and admissions to the Hawaii Youth Corrections Facility (HYCF) have significantly decreased in the past decade. However, many serious challenges remain and, while the state has made strides in establishing a continuum of services, the current profile of youth in HYCF, including many non-serious offenders and youth with little juvenile justice contact, is evidence of the need for sustained and increasingly significant improvements to this continuum. Besides the more obvious advantages relative to public safety and effective rehabilitation, in-community services make fiscal sense. "State leaders across the nation have recognized that combining a more focused use of secure facilities with a continuum of services for youth can result in less recidivism, more rehabilitation of youth, and lower costs for taxpayers (4)."

The Working Group's close review and analysis of the available data yielded very specific conclusions, which will hopefully be extremely useful as lawmakers reach decisions regarding appropriations.

The Working Group's recommendations, taken together, are projected to accelerate current trends, reducing the HYCF average daily population by at least 60 percent by 2019. These shifts in resources will allow the closure of the Ho'okipa Makai cottage during the 2015 fiscal year, and in total are projected to save Hawaii taxpayers at least \$11 million over the next five fiscal years. The Working Group recommends that the state make targeted reinvestments – estimated at \$2 million per year – of these anticipated savings to strengthen juvenile probation and reduce recidivism. Some policy recommendations will require the rededication of existing staff time, while some require the use of reinvested funds. In either case, an investment now will produce significant returns for the foreseeable future in the form of reduced reoffending and more youth set on a path to productive, law-abiding lives (10-11).

At its core, probation provides critical in-community supervision that supports and sustains adjudicated youth in the community and out of secure facilities. Every child who is successful at probation is a child who is not in a secure facility.



Similar to HYCF, the number of youth placed on probation has also declined. However, that number has not decreased at a rate that matches the decrease in arrests. Also, the length that youth spend on probation has significantly increased, while the types of offenses have remained stable. A key finding of the Final Report is: “Overwhelmingly, juvenile justice system stakeholders provided information to the Working Group about the lack of a continuum of interventions for juvenile offenders and difficulty accessing the services that do exist (9).”

Two of the Working Group’s recommendations are particularly relevant to this bill. The findings related to these two recommendations are of such importance and such relevance to this bill that they are extensively quoted here:

Recommendation 3: Provide Funding for Critical Treatment and Services in Communities

The Working Group found that the overwhelming majority of all arrests of juveniles in Hawaii are for minor, non-violent offenses and status offenses. Stakeholders report that, often, the underlying causes of these offenses include family dysfunction, trauma, and substance abuse, which can go woefully unaddressed due to a lack of available services. The Working Group believes that these arrests often multiply and lead to the inappropriate and excessive involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Working Group recommends that services to address these mental health and social issues be increased and addressed statewide, and that the necessary funding be allocated through one of the child-serving agencies, to meet the myriad of mental health and social needs that our at-risk youth and their families struggle with on a daily basis. The Working Group also finds a stated need from stakeholders for secure mental health treatment, and recommends support for this need.

Recommendation 4: Refocus Efforts on Substance Abuse Needs

The heavy toll from substance abuse issues found in many juvenile justice system-involved youth and their families is a significant burden. Working Group members estimated that 80 percent of youth involved in the Hawaii juvenile justice system suffer from substance abuse.

Abuse, dependence, and addictions are serious challenges for Hawaii, and if left untreated in our juvenile populations, it could lead to joblessness,



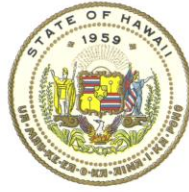
homelessness, increasing rates of delinquency and criminality, and additional prison beds. These outcomes could create significant costs that consume an inordinate percentage of our spending.

The Working Group found that a common denominator in many delinquent acts is substance abuse, making the dearth in available services all the more troubling. The Working Group recommends that resources be allocated to address substance abuse in Hawaii's four counties, including both residential and outpatient services (12).

The Working Group's Final Report clearly connects the dots between public safety, restricting HYCF to serious offenders, developing a continuum of services, expanding local alternatives based on evidence-based practices, and saving public monies by smart reinvestment. The Working Group has performed a remarkable and tangible service for this state—not just for youthful offenders and their families—but for everyone. Everyone benefits when public safety can be strengthened and when children are given the tools to reach healthy and productive futures.

The Judiciary strongly supports the passage of House Bill No. 2659.

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



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

February 5, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2659 – REATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

Hearing: Thursday, February 6, 2014; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2459 is to appropriate funds to the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS strongly supports H.B. 2659. On December 13th, a report was released to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Judiciary, which outlined several key data findings within our juvenile justice system that identified areas for improvement, and two dozen policy recommendations to increase the return on the investment Hawaii makes in its juvenile justice system.

The Working Group which issued this report was a 20-member bipartisan inter-branch group with stakeholders from every facet of juvenile justice, including the judiciary, law enforcement, prosecution, public defense, and community service providers. There were also 5 legislators, including the chairs from both the House and the Senate of the committees for public safety and human services, who served on the group.

The policy recommendations include targeted ways to enhance the effectiveness of juvenile probation, increase familial involvement throughout the juvenile justice system, provide for needed substance abuse and mental health treatments, and make better use of HYCF.

The sad truth is that many of these youth suffer from very serious substance abuse or mental health issues, and that need far outpaces availability for these critical treatments. The Working Group recommended investments in these treatments. Specifically, the Working Group wrote:

Recommendation 3: Provide Funding for Critical Treatment and Services in Communities

- The Working Group found that the overwhelming majority of all arrests of juveniles in Hawaii are for minor, non-violent offenses and status offenses. Stakeholders report that, often, the underlying causes of these offenses include family dysfunction, trauma, and substance abuse, which can go woefully unaddressed due to a lack of available services. The Working Group believes that these arrests often multiply and lead to the inappropriate and excessive involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Working Group recommends that services to address these mental health and social issues be increased and addressed statewide, and that the necessary funding be allocated through one of the youth-serving agencies, to meet the myriad of mental health and social needs that our at-risk youth and their families struggle with on a daily basis. The Working Group also finds a stated need from stakeholders for secure mental health treatment, and recommends support for this need.

Recommendation 4: Refocus Efforts on Substance Abuse Needs

- The heavy toll from substance abuse issues found in many juvenile justice system-involved youth and their families is a significant burden. Working Group members estimated that 80 percent of youth involved in the Hawaii juvenile justice system suffer from substance abuse.

Abuse, dependence, and addictions are serious challenges for Hawaii, and if left untreated in our juvenile populations, it could lead to joblessness, homelessness, increasing rates of delinquency and criminality, and additional prison beds. These outcomes could create significant costs that consume an inordinate percentage of our spending.

The Honorable Mele Carroll
February 5, 2014
Page 3 of 3

The Working Group found that a common denominator in many delinquent acts is substance abuse, making the dearth in available services all the more troubling. The Working Group recommends that resources be allocated to address substance abuse in Hawaii's four counties, including both residential and outpatient services.

Through this bill we are confident that our state can make both significant and long overdue strides in the field of juvenile justice by enhancing services at the "front end" of our juvenile justice system and thereby reducing recidivism.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **RV-YZ**

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Carroll and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2659, Relating to Juvenile Justice

I am Rade Vanic, Acting Captain of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2659, which appropriates funds to the Office of Youth Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through mental health, substance abuse treatment and other practices,

The HPD recognizes that the early and effective treatment of court-involved youth as well as youth placed on probation reduces the likelihood of reoffending.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2659.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rade Vanic in black ink.

Rade Vanic, Acting Captain
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Louis M. Kealoaha in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 6, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Room 329

SUPPORT FOR HB 2659 - Funding for OYS programs

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi 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 2659 appropriates moneys to the office of youth services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in support of this measure. Addressing the immediate needs of our youth is crucial. Judge Browning of the First Circuit's Family Court has said that 5,000 youth come before the court each year and 80% have substance abuse issues and 60% have mental health issues.

Please support funding for our youth so that they can reach their fullest potential.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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

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-Hee'ia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kailihi 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 3, 2014

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Testimony in Support of HB HB 2659 Relating to Juvenile Justice

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2659 Relating to Juvenile Justice.

Youth who enter a juvenile prison are more likely to experience continued involvement in the juvenile and adult criminal justice system.

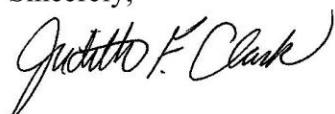
Many young people who commit crimes are in need of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. If they receive appropriate therapy and supports, they are unlikely to engage in further criminal behavior. Instead they can become contributing members of our community.

A 17 year old boy was recently shot in the wrist when he assaulted police officers who were arresting him for running away from home. If he had been able to obtain timely and appropriate mental health services, this unfortunate episode could have been prevented. Instead, it appears that his family will have to place him in an out-of-state facility because no program in Hawaii is not able to provide the level of care he needs.

Hawaii's youth need and deserve adequate and appropriate mental health and substance abuse services to reduce and prevent juvenile crime. Prevention and treatment services cost less than incarceration and the value to our community is huge.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

LATE



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB2659 JUVENILE JUSTICE: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Representative Carroll, Chair; Representative Kobayashi, Vice Chair

- Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
- Conference Room 329

HSAC Supports HB2659:

Good Morning Chair Carroll; Vice Chair Kobayashi; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than twenty treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition fully supports substance use disorder and mental health treatment funding for juvenile offenders.

The purpose of HB2569 is to break the cycle of recidivism by providing behavioral health treatment that meets the holistic needs of the juvenile offender spanning the gamut of substance use disorder treatment and mental health services coupled with effective supervision.

1. Substance use disorder treatment decreases future drug use and drug-related criminal behavior;
2. Because addiction causes long term changes in the brain, a treatment program can help the offender manage adverse behaviors that can be stimulated by cravings for drugs and stress.
3. Detention time does not cure addiction. Offenders still need to learn how to avoid relapse, which can quickly return intense cravings.
4. Juveniles have high risk factors that are a result of re-entering community, such as reuniting with family members, re-starting school, and complying with criminal justice supervision requirements. Even the many daily decisions that most people face can be stressful for those recently released from a highly controlled prison environment.

Treatment for drug abusing juveniles must address those problems in other areas besides addiction. Examples include family difficulties, limited social skills, educational problems, mental health disorders, infectious diseases, and other medical issues. Effective treatment should take these problems into account, because they can increase the risk of drug relapse and criminal recidivism if left unaddressed.

In any case, treatment is needed to provide the skills necessary to avoid or cope with situations that could lead to relapse. Research also reveals that with effective drug abuse treatment, juveniles can overcome persistent drug effects and lead healthy, productive lives.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

February 5, 2014

Ellen K. Awai
3329 Kanaina Ave. #304
Honolulu, HI 96815
Cell: (808) 551-7676
Awai76@aol.com

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair of the Human Services Committee & Members
Hearing on Thursday, February 6, 2014, 9:30 a.m. in Room #329

SUBJECT: HB2659 Behavioral Health Treatment for Office of Youth Services. Please support!

I strongly support HB2659 to appropriate moneys to the Office of Youth Services to provide mental health and substance abuse services. Youth and young adults are at a stage in their life when they need guidance to help them adjust to life on their own. Many who have been involved with the justice system at an early age have faced truancy, trauma, neglect, drugs, and homelessness and many times have attempted suicide. Youths forced to become drug addicts and prostitutes can be found on our streets. Family members have nowhere to go for help. To reduce community costs later, our youth services should provide the needed support and treatments.

In Washington DC, almost a decade ago, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) created national programs such as "What a Difference a Friend Makes!" and others that address teen suicide and bullying. President Obama's Affordable Care Act was directed toward youth health insurance enrollment and extending insurance to those who lived with their parents till age 26. But it fell short of its intended goals. This age group rarely seeks medical assistance, let alone psychiatric assistance. Many have faced a form of trauma before the age of 10, which affects their behavior, and mental, as well as, physical health. Even those leaving home for college face extreme stress and perhaps their first episode of a mental illness. They hide it by self-medicating with narcotic drugs or alcohol creating co-occurring disorders. Was it the substance abuse or their mental illness that came first?

I have a master of science in Criminal Justice Administration (MSCJA) from Chaminade University and a certification as a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. As a former employee with Hawaii's Adult Mental Health Division who trained peer specialists, individuals with lived experiences, I have heard from many who have had these same experiences and/or have children, who had problems at this critical stage in life. Our youth need help as early as possible! The justice and education systems should provide this help, instead of the jails and prisons later in life. The youth are our future, please support bill HB2659!

Mahalo and Aloha!

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

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:07 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: maucrowe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2659 on Feb 6, 2014 09:30AM

HB2659

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for HUS on Feb 6, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james crowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB2659. I am sure you want to give these young people the specific hand-up that gives them the opportunity to reach the positive goals that are in their hearts.

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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