



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

February 19, 2013

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 395, HD 1, Relating to Youth**

Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2013, 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

PURPOSE: The purpose of House Bill 395, House Draft 1, is to require the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to coordinate a two-year safe places for youth pilot program, including a network of safe places where youth can access safety and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports the intent of HB 395, HD 1, Relating to Youth, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist at-risk 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. Walk-ins are accepted and no prior approval is required. HB 395, HD 1, would expand our current efforts in reaching at-risk and troubled youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this 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

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
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
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
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, 2013

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

Testimony in Support of HB395 HD1 Relating to Youth

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 395 HD1 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was conceived by the young people who attended the 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol in October.

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, 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.

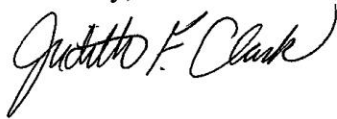
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community businesses, such as convenience stores and fire stations are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. 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 make other appropriate responses to the situation.

If this bill passes, Hawaii Youth Services Network will work with the Office of Youth Services and other partnering organizations to establish and maintain the Safe Place Network. We have identified partners in each county statewide that are willing and able to provide 24-hour response to youth needs and to recruit local businesses as Safe Place Sites.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Finance
Re: HB 395 HD1

To: The Honorable Representative Luke and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports SB 391 as vital to our community. What can be of more import than the safety and well-being of our youth?

Our schools are troubled, the youth suicide rate in Hawai'i is intolerable, and no one seems to have an answer. Perhaps our children can find their own answers if they only had a place of safety, with no pressure, that they could go to and search for their own individual answers.

We feel that this program has to potential to be brilliant. We wish it all the best and if there is any way in which either of The Community Alliance for Mental Health or United Self Help can be of service in helping our young people, especially the transition age consumers of Hawai'i we stand ready to be of service.

Mahalo,
Robert Scott Wall
Vice-President

finance1-Christie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB395 on Feb 21, 2013 11:00AM*

HB395

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	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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To: Committee on Finance

From: Rachel Arakaki, University of Hawaii, MSW Graduate Student

Subject: HB 395, HD1

Purpose of Bill: Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a twoyear safe places for youth pilot program, which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can access safety and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator. Appropriates funds for the coordinator position and residential options for the pilot program.

DATE: Thursday, February 21, 2013

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support of HB 395.

My name is Rachel Arakaki and I am currently in the MSW Graduate program at the University of Hawaii. But, prior to beginning my studies I was a DOE high school teacher. For twenty years, I worked with Hawaii's youth. I heard their stories of feeling abandoned by divorced parents, betrayed by friends and never feeling validated.

One of my goals as a classroom teacher was to provide a haven for them in my classroom. I'd like to think that as soon as they step into my classroom, they could find that security and comfort that outside relationships denied them. But, my role as a teacher had boundaries. There were a few times I received notice that a student was on a runaway list and that the police were notified. I wondered how many safe places that student could go to, outside of their inner circle of friends. Abusive relationships at home make it hard to want to return and I've had students that would prefer police intervention than facing the abusive parent. There must be a better option for these youth who long for a nurturing and caring environment than the one that prompted them to run away in the first place.

I believe a program like this will offer them options that will secure their physical safety as well as provide them with services that can provide guidance and validation.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide support of HB 395.

Rachel Arakaki

