

TESTIMONY ON HB 395, HD 2 RELATING TO YOUTH
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 14, 2013

1:00 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Stephen Morse and I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change. I am here to testify in **support of HB 395, HD 2 Relating to Youth**, particularly as it relates to the establishment of a coordinator position as well as the implementation of a pilot program where youth have access to various support services, resources, guidance, and advice where as they otherwise would not have anywhere to go and no one to turn to in times of crisis.

Providing these types of intervention services and resources were identified as a priority by Hawai'i's youth in the 2012 Children & Youth Summit sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus in October. After the Summit, the Keiki Caucus formed the Safehouse Working Group to explore alternatives to establishing a safehouse for youth system in Hawaii. The Working Group found that many of the needed safehouse services are already being provided by existing social service organizations, but there was a need to better coordinate a safehouse continuum of services and find better ways to communicate available safehouse resources to children and youth. Of major importance to working group members was the concern expressed by Madeline Sckrocki, President of the State Student Council, that youth who run away from abusive home or school environments are often afraid to seek help for fear of being arrested; and that therefore, there is a need to de-criminalize the efforts by youth to seek help.

Of special concern to us should be the need for a coordinated safehouse system in remote, rural areas of the State where youth are often underserved. In January of 2012, the Director of our Neighborhood Place of Puna reported that a young, 7th grade girl began dropping into the office, located directly across the street from Paho School, sporadically over a period of 2 months. After 2 months, she began coming every day and often during school hours. It turns out that besides having a poor home environment, the girl was being bullied at school. NP staff believed the bullying was the result of the girl's ambiguity about her sexual identity. Eventually, NP staff was able to work with Paho School counselors to get the girl additional services she needed, but it was a difficult process because of the lack of services in lower Puna.

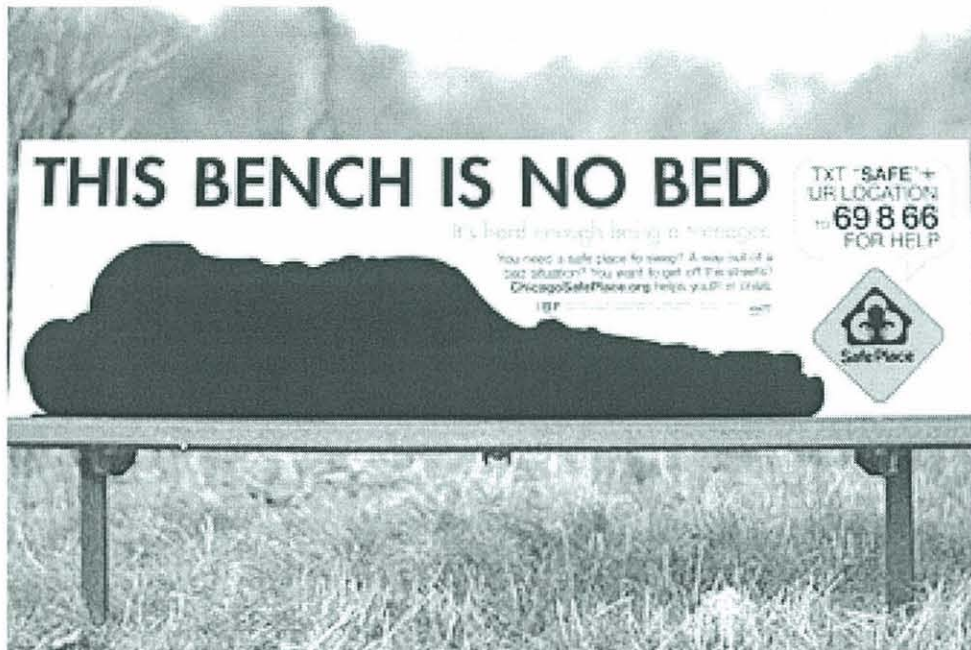
I am again, strongly in support of HB 395, HD 2 Relating to Youth. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify afternoon.

Danielle Allen

1558 Kewalo St. Apt H, Honolulu HI 96822

(516) 661 9481

My name is Danielle Allen and I am an HPU graduate student in the social work master's program. I fully support this bill to allocate funds to coordinating a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program. I have great interest in the issue of youth and am aspiring to work with the at-risk youth population in Hawaii one day when I graduate. A safe place for youth and support for youth to turn to would make a significant impact in the lives of troubled children. Whether they have problems at home, are homeless, have runaway, or need someone to talk to about real things going on in their lives that they have real emotions about, this bill would encourage safe decision-making. This gives them access to resources for issues that impact our youth every day. This gives the youth a chance to advocate for themselves in a community that often forgets about them. Attached are pictures of the campaign currently being used in Chicago titled Project Youth Safety, an innovative project addressing similar societal issues funded by a grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Thank you for considering this bill and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of such an important measure.





References: Project Youth Safety, <http://www.projectyouthsafety.org>

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 1:04 PM
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Cc: crslethem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB395 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM

Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Lethem	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Goodwill between the parents is too often destroyed by custody litigation leaving parents unable to cooperate in the parenting. Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monique Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. When children have adequate time with both parents they have the best outcome and greatly reduces the risk associated with divorce. I feel children should have the love, support of both parents and want to spend time with mom and dad.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in strong support of House Bill 395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. When both parents share parenting responsibilities and time, each parent has time to pursue outside interests and further their education and or other outside interests.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
VIncent Tayata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. When both parents share parenting responsibilities and time, mom and dad then have time to pursue outside interests and even further their education.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Misty Crouch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children having adequate time with both parents have the best outcome and substantially a lower risk associated with divorce.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Strode, Serena	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in strong support of House Bill 395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children deserve to have the love, support and protection of both mom and dad. Children want to spend time with both parents.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Filipo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Any goodwill between the parents is often destroyed by custody litigation leaving parents unable to cooperate in the parenting.

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Cc: jramoshawaii@yahoo.com
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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children deserve to have the love, support and protection of both mom and dad. Children want to spend time with both parents.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Hedge	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in support of HB395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. When Children having adequate time with both parents, this gives children the best outcome and substantially reduces the risks associated with divorce.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. When Children having adequate time with both parents, this gives children the best outcome and substantially reduces the risks associated with divorce.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Much of the goodwill between the parents is too often destroyed by custody litigation leaving parents unable to cooperate in the parenting.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Girolani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB395 with the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children should have the love, affection and support of both mom and dad, and want to spend time with both of their parents.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jay Jack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB395 and request the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children should have the love, affection and support of both the mom and dad. Children want to spend time with both of their parents.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Kincho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB395 and request the following amendment to Hawaii Revised Statute 571-46 Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children should have the love, affection and support of both the mom and dad. Children want to spend time with both of their parents.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013
 Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Cartier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. All children that have adequate time with both parents have the best outcome and substantially a lower risk associated with divorce.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anderson Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children who have adequate time with both parents have the best outcome and a substantial reduced risk associated with divorce.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Nuuhiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. If both parents raised the child before the divorce, why does one parent now need to be excluded? Children should have the love and support of both parents, and want to spend time with mom and dad.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. Children having adequate time with both parents have the best outcome and substantially reduces the risk associated with divorce. All children should have the love, support from both parents and would want to spend time with both parents.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB395, to require the office of youth services to coordinate a safe place for a youth pilot project, so that Hawaii's youth may have a safe place to obtain services, guidance, and care.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shon Ancheta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. When children have adequate time with both parents they have the best outcome and a substantial reduced risk associated with divorce. Children should have love and support from both parents and would want to spend time with them.

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. All children who have adequate time with both mom and dad have the best outcome and it substantially reduces the risk associated with divorce. All children should have love and support from both parents and want to spend time with them.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB395 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM

Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adah Sanders	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB 395 and I respectfully request the following amendment to this bill be applied to Statute 571-46 Hawaii Revised Statute Section 2 subsection 1 as follows: Unless the court finds that a parent is unable to act in the best interest of the child, Custody should be awarded to ensure the inclusion of both parents in the raising of the child, to ensure maximum continuing, physical, emotional and meaningful contact with both parents. I feel all children who have adequate time with both parents have the best outcome and it substantially reduces the risk associated with divorce. All children should receive the love and support from both parents and should want to spend time with them.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:50 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB395 on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM

Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB395 which will establish through the office of youth services, a safe place for youth to obtain the needed assistance and support services. This will help youth who may not have a home to return to or may not feel protected at home.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Au Hoon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Categories: Red Category

HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirsten Thornton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Kirsten Thornton and I am in support of HB395. The purpose of this bill is to provide full-service safe spaces for youth, ages 21 and younger. As a MSW student, as well as a youth mentor, I have had opportunity to speak to young people about the things they wished they had in their lives. A bill like this will support the need youth have expressed for adult mentors, counseling, academic support, and a place to feel connected to a community, which allows them to discover that they are not alone in their experiences. It also provides opportunity to thrive as individuals. HB395 has great potential to impact youth who often fall between the cracks. It has the potential to provide young people with hope, support and chance for success. Thank you for offering the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

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HB395

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 14, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Sims	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in strong support of HB395, to establish a safe place(s) for youth to access for safety and where they can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. This bill will help youth stay in the right direction and lead them to productive lives.

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