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

January 28, 2013

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 395 - RELATING TO YOUTH

Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2013; 10:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of House Bill 395 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: The OYS supports the intent of H.B. 395, Relating to Youth, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The 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. H.B. 395 would expand our current efforts in reaching at-risk youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/29/2013

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0395 RELATING TO YOUTH

Purpose of Bill: Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a two-year 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) is in support of HB 395 as it begins the challenging work of creating a safe haven for youth who lack a stable home environment. Such a program will provide youth with an opportunity to thrive as individuals and achieve optimal educational outcomes.

The Department is poised to partner with the Office of Youth Service, other agencies, branches and organizations in this pilot effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure that will provide a safety net for our at-risk youth.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

January 25, 2013

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

Testimony in Support of HB395 Relating to Youth

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

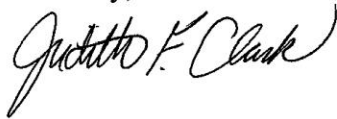
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services.

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, appearing to read "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Community Alliance for Mental Health

Board of Directors

Anne Chipchase
President

Robert Scott Wall
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Treasurer

Sunny Algosó

Jessica Carroll

Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

Susan King

To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Re: HB 395

To: The Honorable Representative Carroll 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



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January 28, 2013

To: Chair Mele Carroll, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Katie Reardon Polidoro, Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 395

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports HB 395, which creates safe, local places where young people can access youth and family serving organizations. It will allow young people the opportunity to more easily deal with issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse, in an easily accessible, safe, and confidential environment.

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. At PPHI, we believe that young people deserve the best information and tools to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety. Therefore, we support HB 395 and ask the Committee to pass it. Mahalo.

Honolulu Health Center

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(A Maui United Way Agency)