



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 643, HD 1, Relating to Youth Gangs**

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of House Bill 643, HD 1 is to appropriate funds for the Youth Gang Response System.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports the intent of HB 643, HD 1, Relating to Youth Gangs, however, we believe more information and data are needed to appropriately assess the nature of a potential re-emergence of the gang problem in the State. OYS agrees that many factors can contribute toward an apparent increase in graffiti, violence, substance abuse and criminal activities. Risk factors such as poverty, higher concentrations of immigration, lack of parental guidance and supervision, and social disorganization in the community can negatively impact a community and it's ability to respond to an apparent youth gang problem. Careful analysis of the extent and depth of the type of criminal activity, and apparent symptoms of underlying social and economic dynamics is required prior to committing valuable resources toward any initiative related to our State's at-risk and troubled youth.

OYS supports a balanced and multi-prong approach to strengthen and improve a community's response in addressing any problem affecting a community. Currently, prevention and intervention efforts are underway through ongoing partnerships with various resources such as the police, prosecutors, Department of Education, Judiciary, community-based agencies, and the University of Hawaii, to address problems such as increased criminal activities that may be more related to ethnic and geographic concerns rather than a strict definition of gang activity.

OYS is committed toward continuing its efforts to provide ongoing leadership in monitoring, evaluating and partnering with the community toward addressing the overall problem of youth delinquency.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE MH-YZ

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 643 H.D. 1, Relating to Youth Gangs

I am Moana Heu, Major of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 643 H.D. 1, Relating to Youth Gangs, which appropriates funds for the Youth Gang Response System.

The HPD has long supported diversion programs like the Police Athletic League and Law Enforcement Explorers Program to divert youth from illegal activity. The funding of a coordinated effort of public, private, and nonprofit resources to develop and implement new youth programs will hinder the growth of youth gangs in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 643 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moana Heu".

MOANA HEU, Major
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa".

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

finance1-Christie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB643 on Feb 21, 2013 11:00AM*

HB643

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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