



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

Date: 02/05/2013

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0643 RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the Youth Gang Response System. Effective July 1, 2013.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 643. A coordinated and comprehensive youth gang response system is critical to control youth gang behavior. Youth gangs are members of our school communities and the Department is committed to partnering with other state agencies, county police departments, businesses, and community based organizations to address youth gang behavior.

The Department also supports the implementation of school-based gang and drug prevention and intervention efforts. Furthermore, in partnership with police departments statewide, the Department will continue to implement school emergency plans and conduct practice drills at every school.



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

February 4, 2013

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 643, Relating to Youth Gangs**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2013; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports the intent of HB 643, 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 its 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 effectively addressing problems and issues with our 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 RAA-YZ

February 5, 2013

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. 643, Relating to Youth Gangs

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

The HPD supports House Bill No. 643, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Ancheta", written over a horizontal line.

RAYMOND ANCHETA, Major
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoaha", written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police