



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

January 29, 2013

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H. B. 665 – RELATING TO AT-RISK YOUTH**

Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 , State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 665 is to establish an at-risk youth task force to recommend a cost-effective, comprehensive system to address problems relating to at-risk youth and their families. Requires the at-risk youth task force to submit a report to the legislature.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill as to establish an at risk youth task force to conduct comprehensive reviews of challenges facing at risk youth, however, we believe that this is duplicative of the functions and intent of Chapter 352D Office of Youth Services. The Office of Youth Services (OYS) was established to provide services and programs for youth at risk under one umbrella agency in order to facilitate optimum service delivery, to prevent delinquency, and to reduce the incidence of recidivism among juveniles through the provision of prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment services. In addition, the OYS is statutorily mandated to provide continuous program planning, development

and coordination of youth services, including coordination with other government and private social service agencies that work with youth. The OYS has in place a State Advisory Committee (SAC) which is comprised of governmental agencies, private not for profit agencies, law enforcement, the judiciary, members of the community and youth . In addition, the OYS has funded numerous community based programs and engages in community based participatory approaches to conduct planning, program development and evaluation. Based on this, we believe that another task force is not necessary at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 0665 RELATING TO AT-RISK YOUTH

Purpose of Bill: Establishes an at-risk youth task force to recommend a cost-effective, comprehensive system to address problems relating to at-risk youth and their families. Requires the at-risk youth task force to submit a report to the legislature.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 0665 and is prepared to participate as a member of the at-risk youth task force. Should the legislature choose to support this bill, the Department recommends that the Department be allowed to select the appropriate representative to represent the broader at-risk population that extends beyond the scope of the school-based behavioral health division.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Millilani Street, Suite 817
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. 665 – Relating to At-Risk Youth

Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 665 is to establish an at-risk youth task force to recommend a cost-effective, comprehensive system to address problems relating to at-risk youth and their families. It further requires the at-risk youth task force to submit a report to the legislature.

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of this bill, however, we believe the finding and purpose of our office as outlined in HRS §325D-1, HRS §352D-2 and HRS §352D-4 establishes such a system. Specifically, OYS is tasked with the "planning, case management, and delivery of services to youth at risk". Additionally, the OYS is "established to provide services and programs for youth at risk under one umbrella agency in order to facilitate optimum service delivery, to prevent delinquency, and to reduce the incidence of recidivism among juveniles through the provision of prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment services". Through the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council, appointed by the Governor, the OYS collaborates with other governmental agencies, law enforcement, the judiciary, non-profit agencies, community members and youth to address the needs of at-risk youth. Based on the OYS's statutory mandates and its strong relationships with a myriad of community based organizations and agencies statewide, we believe that a task force as outlined in H.B. 665 is unnecessary at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Susan M. Chandler
1617 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony in Support of H.B. 665, Relating to At-Risk Youth

Committee on Human Services
Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 29, 2013
10:00 Room 329

Chair Carroll and Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the House Committee on Human Services, I am Susan Chandler, Director of the Public Policy Center in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai'i, but I am testifying as a private citizen **in favor of H.B. 665**, relating to at-risk youth.

Last year, the Public Policy Center was awarded two grants through the Department of Human Services (funded by the Casey Family Program) to design and implement a pilot project called "WRAP SERVICES Hawai'i." Wraparound services is an approach to implementing individualized, comprehensive services for hi-risk youth with complex, multi-dimensional problems. Wrap services are family-centered and are built upon the child and family's unique strengths. In partnership, a wrap coordinating team, the family and members of their support system work together to identify strengths, needs and goals. This team develops, facilitates and continually evaluates a comprehensive plan of services and resources.

Data from Wrap projects across the nation clearly demonstrate that wrap services decrease institutionalization; reduce the length of time a youth lives in foster care and improve clinical outcomes for children and their families. They also reduce costs.

Wrap Hawai'i's has already formed a coordinating committee made up of representatives from the DOH's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division; DHS, child welfare services; OYS, DOE, special education services and the Family Court. EPIC `Ohana, Inc. has been conducting family engagement outreach services for this pilot and the Mediation Center of the Pacific has been facilitating the Wrap team meetings. The goal of the pilot was to demonstrate that Wrap Hawai'i could share information across child serving systems; plan collaboratively, designate a single case manager for each child and family and braid funds into a single system of care called **Wrap Hawai'i**.

To date the following progress has been made:

- (1) A new multi-agency MOA was signed to share information across agencies and a new simple, multi-agency consent form has been developed for the pilot youth;
- (2) The Wrap coordinating committee (DHS, DOH, DOE, OYS, Court) developed a single referral form to be used by all the agencies and is finalizing the policies and procedures for the implementation plan;

(3) A program evaluation and tracking system of the selected outcomes measures is underway.

The committee continues to work on the following:

- (1) Establishing a 24/7 crisis stabilization service (perhaps modifying existing POS contracts to provide these services); and
- (2) Braiding resources from the participating agencies to support the families in innovating ways.

H.B. 665 seeks to establish a task force to conduct a review of the challenges facing at-risk youth and requests that the University of Hawai'i administers such a task force.

I respectfully suggest that in place of establishing such a task force, that the Legislature support the further development of Wrap Services Hawai'i. The elements of wraparound services are being documented in Hawai'i and have been successfully demonstrated in many states across the country. Wrap has been used successfully with "high-end" youth already in the correctional system; mental health and/or foster care systems. It can also be successfully help high-risk youth not yet in foster care or any institution or detention system (with the goal of preventing that from occurring).

The major challenge and barriers in helping these youth seems to be in the braiding of resources across agencies and the restrictive eligibility definitions of serving these youth and their families. Perhaps a smaller task force could be formed to focus on those specific barriers. Including the Department of Budget and Finance and the Office of the Attorney General would be advisable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and continue to work with you as this bill progresses.