

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

March 10, 2014

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2211, SD2 Relating to Youth

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of SB 2211, SD2 is to coordinate a five-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. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program and provide immunity from liability to safe places providers and other related service providers. The bill also establishes and funds a position for a youth program coordinator.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports SB 2211, SD2, Relating to Youth, however, we recommend a change in the definition of "young adult". Under SB 2211, SD2, young adult is defined as a person less than twenty-one years of age. We suggest a clarification in defining "young adult" to mean a person between the ages of 18 years and 20 years old.

SB 2211, SD2 also provides for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist 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. SB 2211, SD2 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth.

The fiscal implications of this bill are contingent on the funding allocated by Legislature. The approximate costs associated with this five-year pilot program are based on the national Safe Place model, and are as follows:

- Year 1 = \$53,364, Planning and Development
 - Year 2 = \$158,414, Implementation – Oahu
 - Year 3 = \$174,864, Expansion to Hawaii Island
 - Year 4 = \$186,614, Expansion to Maui and Kauai
 - Year 5 = \$195,714, Statewide implementation to include travel and training
- TOTAL = \$768,714 for the 5 years

Prevention is a critical component in the juvenile justice continuum of services, and this safe place model, by providing youth access to help, advice and guidance before their problems escalate into possible delinquent behaviors, will serve such a purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
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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
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
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
Kaanalike
Kahi Mo'ohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihī 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

March 8, 2014

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2211 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 2211 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol in October. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012 and 2013, indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network.

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, and 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.

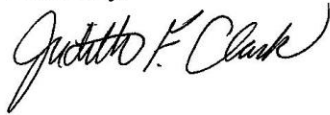
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. 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 provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'C'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 11, 2014

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To: House Committee on Human Services
Re: SB 2211, SD 2

Aloha Chair Carroll and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support the passage of SB 2211, SD 2.

We believe that the Youth Safe Place concept is brilliant. We also believe that this is because this is what they say they need. A safe place they can go to get advice and counselling on the many things that plague our young people. Things they don't feel comfortable discussing with their families and teachers.

Studies have shown that youth between twelve and seventeen are the most likely to run away. Therefore we disagree with the Department of Human Services and their notion that the youth should be limited to ages eighteen through twenty.

We are certain that our young people know what they need. They need sanctuary, they need advice concerning family, school, friends, sex, violence, mental health. The reasons that they feel that they cannot get this advice and counsel at home, school, or church, are not important. What is important is that it is available.

Therefore we strongly support the passage of SB 2211, SD 2.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

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**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN SUPPORT OF S.B. NO. 2211, SD 2**

March 11, 2014
10:00 a.m.

To: Chairperson Mele Carroll and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in Support of S.B. No. 2211, SD 2.

HAJ is in support of the concept of developing a program to provide safe places for youth. Initially, HAJ was opposed only to the immunity provision in the original bill which was deleted in the SD 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and listening to our concerns and comments.



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 2211, SD2

Dear Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) writes in support of S.B. 2211, SD2, which seeks to create a safe places for youth pilot program. PPHI is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy and we support the safe places for youth program because it will have a positive impact on the health of our young people.

A safe places for youth program would offer youth easily accessible, safe, and confidential environments where they can deal with issues like peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect and substance abuse. Safe places will afford young people the opportunity to obtain the best information and tools that they need to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

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Honolulu, HI 96814
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KAUAI
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Lihue, HI 96766
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KONA
Hualalai Medical Center
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI
Kahului Office Center
140 Ho’ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176





PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2211 SD2: RELATING TO YOUTH

TO: Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair; Rep. Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair; and members of the House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Jenny Lee, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Partners In Care

Hearing: **Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 10:00 AM, Room 329**

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of Senate Bill 2211, creating a five-year safe places for youth pilot program. This program would establish a network of safe places where youth can ask for help and access the services and support that they need. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am an Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness.

Through a safe places program, Hawai'i's youth facing crisis situations would have a place to turn for immediate help and safety at any hour. Partners In Care supports the creation of a network of safe places as a means to prevent youth homelessness. Service providers who work with unaccompanied and homeless young people have indicated that such a program could help ensure youth are connected with effective services before they run away and become homeless.

Many youth run away due to family problems such as abuse, neglect, or an inability to cope with a family member's substance use or mental illness. Children may also be pushed out of their home due to conflict or their family's inability to provide or care for them. Others may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, mental illness, or substance use disorders. A safe places program would target these vulnerable young people and help provide them and their families with appropriate services and follow-up support.

Without appropriate intervention, a runaway youth is at serious risk of homelessness. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 8 and 10 will run away at some point. Studies have also shown that youth ages 12 to 17 are at greater risk of homelessness than adults. Once a youth has become homeless, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Homeless youth are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are at greater risk of mental health struggles, including severe anxiety, depression, and suicide. Some turn to selling drugs or prostitution just to survive. They also face substantial barriers to continuing their education: three-quarters of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school. These sad consequences can have a lifelong impact that may never be fully overcome.

PIC believes that a safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness. Again, thank you for providing Partners In Care the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2211.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.

TESTIMONY ON SB 2211, SD 2 RELATING TO YOUTH
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 11, 2014

10:00 am

Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House 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 SB 2211, SD 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 both the 2012 and 2013 Children & Youth Summit sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus. After the Summits, 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 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 Pahoia 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 Pahoia 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 SB 2211, SD 2 Relating to Youth. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify morning.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329

Testimony in Support of SB2211 SD2, Relating to Youth

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB2211 SD2**, which would establish a Safe Places for Youth pilot program. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Half of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for status offences, such as running away, truancy from school, or curfew violations. Without appropriate interventions or a safe plan to turn in times of crisis, many runaway youth find themselves at serious risk of homelessness. SB2211 SD2 will establish a network of safe places where youth in crisis can request help, and access the necessary supports and services they need to address their concerns and prevent involvement with the criminal justice system.

A safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness in Hawaii. In addition, the proposed Safe Places for Youth program is truly a collaborative community effort, which involves service providers, local businesses, as well as local law enforcement.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support of this bill and appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to this issue.



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

March 9, 2014

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

From: National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter
Marty A. Oliphant, Executive Director

Re: **SB 2211**, Relating to Youth, **Strong Support**

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: State Capitol, Room 329

Representative Mele Carroll, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services, my name is Marty Oliphant and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2211** relating to Youth

NASW supports initiatives that promote the safety and well being of children and youth. We believe the safe places program would allow the youth in our community to gain better access to services that may be otherwise unknown to the youth. This bill requires the Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services to coordinate a five-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services. The bill establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator. It would allow minors age fourteen and older to consent to enter the safe places program.

NASW strongly supports SB 2011. We appreciate your sincere consideration of the restoration of the Hawaii Child Welfare Education Collaboration. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 12:48 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: Awai76@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2211 on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM

SB2211

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB2211 SD2 to provide safe places for youth. As a parent, a behavioral health advocate, and a student from criminal justice administration, I strongly support this bill. I am involved with groups for suicide prevention, behavioral health, and tobacco cessation and had the opportunity to listen to the youth in 2012 at the Children/Youth Summit. Our youth need to know that there are places that they can go to for assistance if they feel they cannot get it anywhere else. Thank you!

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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March 7, 2014

I am in support of SB2211. As we have all become increasingly aware of issues of teen homelessness, prostitution, and drug use it has become apparent that young people are at high risk of exploitation once they become alienated from their home and school environments. In some cases this is due to bad behavior and poor choices by our children, in other instances the causes are parental neglect or abuse, or bullying, cultural conflicts and maladjustment in school settings. In the end whatever the cause for a child leaving their home or school environment, what matters is that they find someone who they can trust and who can provide appropriate care and guidance as they navigate the difficult path of young adulthood. To leave them alone and unprotected on the streets because they don't feel safe in confiding their problems and fears to adults is to leave them vulnerable to the predators who are all too ready to deceive them with false assurances of caring and protection. This bill would establish a network of safe places staffed by trained professionals where children can know that they will be safe from exploitation and will be treated with respect and dignity. Given that these young people have already begun to reject traditional paths to adulthood it is imperative that we as a society provide them with safe alternatives that can gently get them back on course, whether that is with their own families or via new institutions and role models. Thank you.

Marcia Hamilton

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

From: Karissa Cheng, MSW student

Re: **SB 2211**, Relating to Youth, Safe Places

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: State Capitol room 329

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2211. My name is Karissa Cheng and I am currently a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson, School of Social Work. I am in my last semester and hope to work with at-risk youth. I believe that the safe places will help youth to make difficult decisions in regards to their social and emotional well being.

During the 2012 and 2013 Children and Youth Summit, safe places was placed as a high priority. Hawaii's youth needs safe places to provide advice, guidance, and protection during difficult times. Peer pressure, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and bullying are serious problems youth are facing and they deserve appropriate help to guide them in the right direction. Safe places can help youth to make responsible decisions by providing 24 hour crisis responders and trained employees to appropriately handle their situations. Most importantly, safe places aims to resolve problems before they become uncontrollable for the youth and their family.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Karissa Cheng

LATE

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DATE: March 10, 2014

TO: Rene Carroll, Chair, Committee on Human Services, and Committee members

FROM: Marya Grambs, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Hawaii

RE MEASURE #: SB2211, SD2

HEARING AT: 10:00 a.m., March 11, 2014

Mental Health America of Hawaii, Hawaii's oldest mental health organization in the state, **strongly supports SB2211**, which will begin the development of a safe space network for youth.

We're one of the only nine states that do not have a program like this. It is necessary to provide a safe haven for youth during immediate crisis – when a child has had to escape a violent situation at home or at school. The need for this program has been voiced two years in a row as a top concern of youth at the Youth Summit.

Many youth run away due to family problems such as abuse, neglect, a family member's substance use or mental illness, or bullying at school. Others may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, mental illness, or substance use disorders.

We must offer these young people an alternative to the streets, being arrested for truancy or running away from home, or remaining in an unsafe environment. We must make such protection easy to access wherever a young person might be.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



March 11, 2014

Representative Mele Carroll
Chair – Committee on Human Services
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi
Vice Chair – Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members,

Enterprise Honolulu is in support of SB2211 SD2 relating to youth as it relates to the shaping of Hawaii's future.

"Safe Places" is a lifestyle in our heritage and that is why I believe people generally consider me a safe place for themselves.

Studies have proven that youth who have developed healthy lives as adults were impacted by at least one significant adult. My hope is that SB2211 SD2 is a place and a relationship to a healthy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2211 SD2.

Mahalo,

Pono Shim
President and CEO, Enterprise Honolulu



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 12:02 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rayferg84@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2211 on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM



SB2211

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for HUS on Mar 11, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing this testimony in strong support of SB2211 SD2. The Safe Places Network is a nationwide framework which provides youth with community safe havens in times of crisis. Hawaii is 1 of only 9 other states to not have some sort of safe places program in place. As voiced by Hawaii's youth at both the 2012 and 2013 Children and Youth Summit, safe places for youth are an immediate need to increasing problems such as bullying, youth suicide, teen pregnancy, abuse, and human trafficking. In alignment with this, I feel like all youth should have the opportunity to access services and resources in a safe environment, especially when experiencing a crisis. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

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