

hale `opio kaua'i, inc.

Community Programs for Children, Youth and Families

February 19, 2013

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TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: LaVerne Bishop, Executive Director
Hale `Opio Kaua'i, Inc.

RE: SB391, SD1 Relating to Youth

HEARING: DATE: February 22, 2013
TIME: 9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM: 211

Hartwell H.K. Blake

Casey Quel Fitchett

Carol Furtado

Phyllis Kunimura

Orianna Skomoroch

I urge you to support a two-year pilot program within the Office of Youth Services that will establish a statewide safe place network, as requested by young people at the Children and Youth Summit in October 2012. National Safe Places welcome young people in and connect them to knowledgeable staff and programs in a timely fashion.

As more and more youth seek information on topics ranging from contraception to bullying to suicide, having identified safe places in communities around the islands that can direct youth to relevant, reliable and safe resources is highly desirable. The array of services is daunting and constantly changing and many youth and families simply do not benefit as a result. With safe places within their community, it is more likely they would seek and receive information that will link them to the numerous resources available.

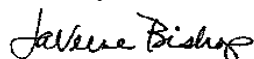
I urge you to support a two-year pilot project that would provide the opportunity to evaluate the impact such a coordinated effort would have on runaway youth, youth in other vulnerable positions, and youth reaching out for information and resources because they had a safe place to do so.

LaVerne Bishop
Executive Director

Lenie Nishihira
Controller

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



LaVerne Bishop
Executive Director

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

February 19, 2013

To: Senator David Ige Chair,
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of SB 391 SD1 Relating to Youth

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 391 SD1 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.

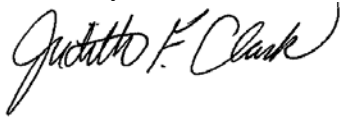
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services.

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 that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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 David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 391, SD 1, Relating to Youth

Hearing: Friday, February 22, 2013; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

PURPOSE: The purpose of Senate Bill 391, SD 1 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: OYS supports the intent of SB 391, SD 1 Relating to Youth, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

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. SB 391, SD 1, would expand our current efforts in reaching at-risk and troubled youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.