



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.

# 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.

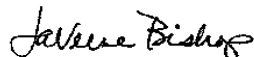
LaVerne Bishop  
Executive Director

Lenie Nishihira  
Controller

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.

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.

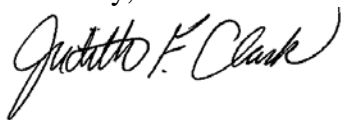
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services.

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