



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

March 12, 2013

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 391, SD 2, Relating to Youth

Hearing: Tuesday, March 12, 2013; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of Senate Bill 391, SD 2 is to require the Office of Youth Service (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 2 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 youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



To: Chair Carroll  
Vice Chair Kobayashi  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Fr: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

RE: SB391, SD2

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to lend our thoughts to the important issues pertaining to our youth and their needs for safety.

As our community moves forward to consider viable and comprehensive ways to help our youth achieve adulthood with the skills, safety and resources they need we are advocating that the discussion be broadened to include issues pertaining to dating violence and healthy relationships. Dating abuse results in unwanted pregnancy, hi risk for substance abuse, depression, academic failure and long-lasting emotional wounds.

The incidence of dating violence is alarming. Hawaii's investment in outreach, prevention (and services) has been disappointing. As new programs are shaped and decisions about allocation of resources are debated, we implore you to lift up the importance of support to youth to better understand healthy relationships, warning signs for abuse and services to those already suffering the effects of dating abuse.

The Domestic Violence Action Center is home to one of the few programs dedicated to working with teens and providing statewide outreach, prevention and services. Teen Alert is in great demand and can bring a great deal of expertise to the discussion related to planning, or increased support at Safe Places.

Mahalo for your willingness to consider an expanded approach to Safe Places.

Thank you..



# Community Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services.  
Re: SB 391 SD 2

To: The Honorable Senator Carroll and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports SB 391 SD 2 as vital to our community. What can be of more import than the safety and well-being of our youth?

Our schools are troubled, the youth suicide rate in Hawai'i is intolerable, and no one seems to have an answer. Perhaps our children can find their own answers if they only had a place of safety, with no pressure, that they could go to and search for their own individual answers.

We feel that this program has to potential to be brilliant. We wish it all the best and if there is any way in which either of The Community Alliance for Mental Health or United Self Help can be of service in helping our young people, especially the transition age consumers of Hawai'i we stand ready to be of service.

Mahalo,  
Robert Scott Wall  
Vice-President

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## Adult Friends for Youth

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**Testimony on SB 391 SD 2**

Presented to the House Human Services Committee

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

By Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, M.S.W.  
Adult Friends for Youth  
President and CEO

Chair Carroll and Members of the House Human Services Committee, I am here to testify in support of SB 391 SD2 which will allow youth to access safe places to obtain advice, guidance, programs and services.

Before taking on my role as President and CEO, I spent over 20 years in the field working directly with youth. I have seen the successes when youth are provided with opportunities, guidance, and a safe, non-judgmental, nurturing, and respectful place to develop as productive and contributing members of society. But unfortunately I have also witnessed that at a young age, many of our youth fall prey to gangs, crime, drugs and violence which includes cyber bullying, human trafficking and other traumas. Times have changed and now our youth live in world where technology can be a double edge sword. They can access the world beyond their community and imagination providing them education opportunities beyond the classroom but they also become vulnerable to the unsuspecting perpetrators of society that have victimized them in many ways. In this sense, they become victims of their community. The key here is for youth to be able to access the appropriate services they need to overcome these negative influences. Helping them to develop and become healthy and successful people. Our youth deserves our help and more importantly they deserve to be protected.

I ask that you support SB 391 SD 2 as it will provide the financial means for youth to access safe places and live lives that are not only safe but healthy to continue thrive and become productive citizens of Hawaii.