



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

LATE TESTIMONY

February 4, 2013

TO: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **SB 419 – Relating to Alternative Schools for Juveniles Involved in the Justice System**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

PURPOSE: The purpose of SB 419 is to establish two alternative schools in the City and County of Honolulu to facilitate the ongoing education of juveniles in the justice system.

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of this bill, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The education of youth involved in the juvenile justice system is one of the most critical factors for the successful transition to adulthood. A common denominator of the youth incarcerated at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility is failure in their neighborhood schools. Alternative schools would present both a vital and unique opportunity for those youth for whom traditional education models have proven unsuccessful.

The OYS would further recommend that this bill be expanded to include a minimum of one alternative school in the State's other three counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.