

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/16/2014

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 051, SD1(sscr2987) REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF A YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY TO STUDENTS IN GRADES SIX TO TWELVE.

**Purpose of Resolution:** Requests the administration of a youth risk behavior survey to students in grades six to twelve.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 51 SD1. In doing so however, the Department raises a concern with the "Be It Resolved" paragraph, page 2, lines 9-14, that asks the Department to also administer the youth risk behavior survey to students in charter schools. Instead, as the State Public Charter School Commission is the oversight authority over charter schools, line 14 should designate such authority separately, to administer the survey to their students in the applicable grade levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

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  
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-Hee'ia 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

April 15, 2014

To: Representative Roy Takumi Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

## **Testimony in Support of SCR 51 SD 1 Requesting the Administration of a Youth Behavioral Risk Survey to Students in Grades 6 to 12 in Select Schools**

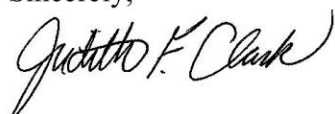
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 51 SD 1 Requesting the Administration of a Youth Behavioral Risk Survey to Students in Grades 6 to 12 in Select Schools.

The Youth Behavioral Risk Assessment (YRBS) collects valuable data on the health and well-being of Hawaii's youth that cannot be obtained through other sources. I use YRBS data in successful grant applications that are currently bringing in more than \$1.5 million in federal dollars to meet the needs of Hawaii's youth and their families. YRBS helps us understand where we are doing well with our young people and how we can work with them to reduce risks and increase healthy behavior.

The bill will increase participation in the survey by allowing for passive rather than active consent. When larger numbers of students participate, the data is more accurate and valid, and it allows for data reporting on the county level rather than having only state-level data

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Education  
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

April 16, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted support for SCR51 SD1, requesting the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in grades six to twelve in select schools.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition likes the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) because it is a federal survey, which is widely viewed and allows Hawaii to be compared with other states and the nation. Further, the questionnaire asks specific questions about risk behavior, which may help inform the Department of Education and the Board of Education on risk behavior trends, and consequently help shape policy and planning decisions. Among the topics that are covered in the survey, bullying, physical fighting, depression and attempted suicide are of particular interest to families, with the feeling that if students do not feel safe they will not be able to learn.

As with all surveys, in order for them to be effective, an adequate response rate is critical. We learned that currently, one obstacle about the YRBS was that a parent would have to give consent for a student to take the survey. This bill allows a student not to take the survey only if there is written permission from the parent. This opt-out clause, we believe, will result in more students being able to take the survey, improving response rates. The Coalition also supports the broadening of participation to include private schools students to allow for a meaningful representation for the students of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

## HE'E Member List

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special  
Needs  
\*DOE Windward District  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and  
Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity  
Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the  
Odds  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and  
Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Punahou School PUEO Program  
Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of  
Education  
YMCA of Honolulu  
\*Voting Member

**LATE**



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
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In reply, please refer to  
File:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**SCR 51 SD 1, REQUESTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE YOUTH RISK  
BEHAVIOR SURVEY TO STUDENTS IN GRADES SIX TO TWELVE IN  
SELECT SCHOOLS**

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Health**

**April 16, 2014**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent  
2 Resolution (SCR) 51 SD 1 and suggests amendments.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The current cost for biennial administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey  
4 (YRBS) and Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is \$500,000. The DOH provides about 80% of the funding  
5 through state special and federal funds. The Department of Education (DOE) provides the remaining  
6 20% of the survey administration costs with federal funds. Additional data collection would increase the  
7 costs of survey administration which are not budgeted.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SCR 51 SD1 is to expand the administration of the YRBS to  
9 students in grades 6-12 attending private, public charter, and public non-charter schools unless the  
10 student's parent or legal guardian submits written notification to the school that the student does not  
11 have permission to participate (i.e., "passive permission").

12 Presently, the YRBS is administered only in select public non-charter secondary schools with  
13 grades 6-12; elementary schools with grade six are not included. The student's parent or legal guardian

1 must submit written notification to the school in order for the student to participate (i.e., “active  
2 permission”).

3 The DOH agrees that adopting a passive permission process for the YRBS would make it easier  
4 for students to participate in the survey while still giving parents the opportunity to opt their children  
5 out. According to the CDC, there are 43 other states already using a passive permission process for the  
6 YRBS.

7 The department also supports the intent of this resolution, to increase student participation in the  
8 YRBS in order to have more representative data for Hawaii’s youth population. Including students from  
9 private and public charter schools in the YRBS administration would provide insight into the health  
10 behaviors of the approximately 20% of students who do not attend public non-charter schools. However,  
11 the current cost for biennial administration of the YRBS and YTS in public non-charter secondary  
12 schools only is \$500,000. Additional data collection at private and public charter schools would  
13 increase the costs of survey administration which are not budgeted.

14 There is some concern that this measure as written now might be interpreted to request that all  
15 private schools participate in the survey. A census is not needed to obtain representative data for this  
16 population and it would substantially increase the cost of administration and place an unnecessary  
17 burden on the schools and their students.

18 In summary, the department recommends that the YRBS be administered to a sample of students  
19 enrolled in grades 6-12 at selected public non-charter, public charter, and private secondary schools.  
20 Complex sampling procedures would be utilized to select which schools and students participate in the  
21 YRBS in order to provide the data necessary to represent Hawaii's students as a whole. The DOH  
22 therefore suggests the following amendments to SCR51 SD1:

23 Page 2, lines 9 to 13, “BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the . . . that the Department of  
24 Education is requested to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to a sample of students...”

1 Page 2, lines 16 to 18, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that select private schools are requested  
2 to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to a sample of students in grades six to twelve."

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.  
4

**LATE**

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Education  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 2:30 p.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.C.R. 51, S.D. 1

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of S.C.R. 51, SD1, which seeks to request the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to students in grades six to twelve in select schools. We support this resolution because it will serve to increase the number of students participating the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (“YRBS”) and provide a more comprehensive picture of Hawaii youth’s health-risk behaviors.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. To further that mission, we rely on research and data to help us to understand the needs of the community. The YRBS is a national school-based survey conducted by the U.S. Center on Disease Control designed to, among other things, determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors amongst youth.<sup>1</sup> Currently, public school students are asked to opt in to participate in the survey and private school students are not asked to participate at all. S.C.R. 51 will ensure that more public and private students participate unless they opt out, which will increase the number of students participating in the survey and provide us with a better look at our youth’s current health state.

The YRBS has proven to be an important tool in understanding the health-risk behaviors among youth in Hawaii. For example, the YRBS has shown that Hawaii’s teens have the lowest rate of condom use in the country and the highest rate of sexually active teens using any other form of birth control.<sup>2</sup> This information helps us to determine where and how to focus our resources in order to best provide for the youth of Hawaii. By increasing the number of students participating in the survey, S.C.R. 51 will give us a more accurate look at Hawaii’s youth and help us to determine how to best meet their needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/yrbs/pdf/hiv/hi\\_hiv\\_combo.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/yrbs/pdf/hiv/hi_hiv_combo.pdf).

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