



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

January 24, 2014

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1697, Relating to Youth

Hearing: Tuesday, January 28, 2014; 9:30 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 29

PURPOSE: The purpose of HB 1697 is to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can access safety and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program and provide immunity from liability to safe places providers and other related service providers. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports HB 1697, Relating to Youth, however, we recommend a change in the definition of "minor". Under HB 1697, it defines minor as a person less than twenty-one years of age. The legal ambiguity lies in applying this definition to providing services to a consenting "minor" without parental, guardian, or custodial permission. Young adults ages 18 years to 20 years old have reached the age of majority and therefore are not subject to parental, guardian, or custodial permission and can therefore give their consent liberally. We suggest "minor" to mean a person less than eighteen years of age, and "young adult" to mean a person less than twenty-one years of age.

HB 1697 also provides for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist 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

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
January 27, 2011
Page 2

in crisis. HB 1697 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: 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-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihii 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

January 24, 2014

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1697 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol in October. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012 and 2013, indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network.

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, and 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.

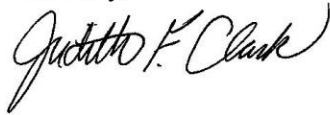
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. 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 provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. NO. 1697**

January 28, 2014
9:30 a.m.

To: Chairperson Mele Carroll and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in opposition to H.B. No. 1697.

HAJ is not opposed to the concept of developing a program to provide safe places for youth. However, HAJ is opposed to the provision in Section 2 (h) on page 7, lines 8-15 which states that “providers shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability ...”

There are two basic underlying reasons of tort law in the American legal system. One is to compensate a person for his or her injuries as a result of another and the other is to serve as a deterrent to prevent negligent or irresponsible behavior. When a person or an entity realizes that they may be held liable, there is a strong incentive to prevent the occurrence of harm. One reason for imposing liability is the deliberate purpose of providing that incentive. Said another way, tort law encourages responsible behavior.

This bill absolves all providers who may provide services to the youth in these safe places to be immune from liability for negligent acts. While the primary purpose behind this act is compelling, well intended, and to be applauded, the means by which this bill attempts to support the perceived safety of children in their own homes and/or at their schools creates various issues.

First, the bill applies to all youth, defined merely as 21 years of age or younger, and has no minimum floor age, below which a youth would be unqualified to consent to

the youth's placement in these to be designated "safe places programs" where they "could seek safety from intolerable home or school environments without fear of being judged, detained, or criminalized as a runaway."

Second, the bill, after youthful consent, then shelters those serving these vulnerable youth from accountability for the serving actors' negligence, further burdening the at risk youth with the full consequences from any and all negligent acts and/or omissions causing harm to these youth from those running these safe placement programs and/or related services.

Third, the act undermines the duty the Department of Human Services/Child Protective Services already owes to all youth to investigate any and all claims of unsafe home and/or school environments, even if such a claim is emanating solely from the subject youth themselves, and/or remains only the matter of the youth's misperception and see that a youth is placed safely.

Lastly, these providers may be professionals, lay persons, and others who are "related service providers". The scope of the immunity for negligent acts is too broad and does not protect the youth who may want to access these safe places and have access to professional advice. HAJ feels that this is not in the best interest of these youth and is not good public policy. HAJ requests that at least this portion of the bill be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and listening to our concerns and comments.

Kaua`i Community Alliance

c/o Catholic Charities Hawai'i, 3016 'Umi Street, Suite 207, Lihue, HI 96766

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1697: RELATING TO YOUTH

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair; Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Debra deLuis, Chair, Kaua'i Community Alliance

Hearing: **Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:30 AM, Room 329**

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of House Bill 1697, creating a safe places for youth pilot program. This program would establish a network of safe places where youth can ask for help and access the services and support that they need. My name is Debra deLuis, and I am the Chair for Kaua'i Community Alliance, a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness.

Although Kaua'i Community Alliance focuses upon issues of homelessness, we also seek to prevent homelessness. We believe a safe places program would prevent youth homelessness by offering local youth facing crisis situations a safe place to turn for immediate help. Kaua'i Community Alliance recognizes unaccompanied and homeless young people have indicated that such a program could help connect youth with effective services before they run away and become homeless.

Youth run away for varying reasons, but regardless of the circumstances that push them out of the home, a safe places program could provide these vulnerable young people with alternatives, appropriate services and follow-up support.

Without appropriate intervention, a runaway youth is at serious risk of homelessness. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 8 and 10 will run away at some point. Studies have also shown that youth ages 12 to 17 are at greater risk of homelessness than adults. Once a youth has become homeless, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Homeless youth are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are at greater risk of mental health struggles, including severe anxiety, depression, and suicide. Some turn to selling drugs or prostitution just to survive. They also face substantial barriers to continuing their education: three-quarters of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school. These sad consequences can have a lifelong impact that may never be fully overcome.

A safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness. Again, thank you for providing Kaua'i Community Alliance the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1697.

**Kaua'i County Chapter, Bridging the Gap
The Neighbor Island Continuum of Care**

Kaua'i Community Alliance is a collaborative working together to end homelessness and create sustainable housing options on Kaua'i and in the State of Hawai'i.

TESTIMONY ON HB 1697 RELATING TO YOUTH
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

January 28, 2014

9:30 am

Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services. My name is Stephen Morse and I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change. I am here to testify in **support of HB 1697 Relating to Youth**, particularly as it relates to the establishment of a coordinator position as well as the implementation of a pilot program where youth have access to various support services, resources, guidance, and advice where as they otherwise would not have anywhere to go and no one to turn to in times of crisis.

Providing these types of intervention services and resources were identified as a priority by Hawai'i's youth in both the 2012 and 2013 Children & Youth Summits sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus. After the Summits, the Keiki Caucus formed the Safehouse Working Group to explore alternatives to establishing a safehouse for youth system in Hawaii. The Working Group found that many of the needed safehouse services are already being provided by existing social service organizations, but there was a need to better coordinate a safehouse continuum of services and find better ways to communicate available safehouse resources to children and youth. Of major importance to working group members was the concern expressed that youth who run away from abusive home or school environments are often afraid to seek help for fear of being arrested; and that therefore, there is a need to de-criminalize the efforts by youth to seek help.

Of special concern to us should be the need for a coordinated safehouse system in remote, rural areas of the State where youth are often underserved. In January of 2012, the Director of our Neighborhood Place of Puna reported that a young, 7th grade girl began dropping into the office, located directly across the street from Pahoia School, sporadically over a period of 2 months. After 2 months, she began coming every day and often during school hours. It turns out that besides having a poor home environment, the girl was being bullied at school. NP staff believed the bullying was the result of the girl's ambiguity about her sexual identity. Eventually, NP staff was able to work with Pahoia School counselors to get the girl additional services she needed, but it was a difficult process because of the lack of services in lower Puna.

I am again, strongly in support of HB 1697 Relating to Youth. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify this morning.



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, January 27, 2014, 9:30 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.B. 1697

Dear Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of H.B. 1697, which seeks to create a safe places for youth pilot program. This program will coordinate a network of local places where young people can safely access advice, guidance, programs and services. The proposed network is based on a National Safe Place model in which community businesses, such as a nearby store, are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency.

The Safe Places program will allow young people the opportunity to deal with issues like peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect and substance abuse in an easily accessible, safe, and confidential environment. Safe places will give young people the opportunity to obtain the best information and tools that they need to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

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KAUAI
357 Rice Street, Suite 101
Lihue, HI 96766
808-482-2756

KONA
Hualalai Medical Center
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Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI
Kahului Office Center
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176





46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1697, RELATING TO YOUTH

**House Committee on Human Services
Hon. Mele Carroll, Chair
Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

Honorable Chair Carroll and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 1697, relating to youth.

As advocates for survivors of human trafficking, we've encountered numerous minors while conducting outreach to victims. Sadly, many of these victims are misidentified as status offenders by law enforcement, who then subject them to detainment, arrest, and the legal protocols of family court. These children often, but not always, come from broken or abusive homes. What *is* almost always true, however, is that, once on the run, these kids are targeted by pimps and sex traffickers seeking to exploit their youth for financial gain. We feel that creating a network of "safe places" for the provision of counseling and information about available services would help address our victims' needs—especially with regard to psychological treatment and trauma care—by linking together existing services under a coordinated umbrella. That said, we urge you to be vigilant about safeguarding against lapses in privacy protection when information is shared between agencies participating in the pilot program, since such lapses could jeopardize the safety of victims and disincentivize utilization of the program's resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:25 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1697 on Jan 28, 2014 09:30AM

HB1697

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for HUS on Jan 28, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scott Wall | Community Alliance for Mental Health | Support | No |

Comments: to: House Committee on Human Services Aloha Rep. Carroll and members of the committee, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health as well as United Self Help we strongly support HB1697. We feel that our youth are at risk of many social ills and giving them a safe place where they can learn how to combat drugs, mental illness, domestic violence, and all the rest of the ills that face them is a wonderful thing. Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

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HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Mele Carroll, Chair

The Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 1697

Relating to Youth

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

01/28/2014, 9:30 A.M., Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **supports** House Bill 1697 which requires the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services, establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator, establishes rules to allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program and provide immunity from liability to safe place providers and other related service providers, and provides funding for this program.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as home life, income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, and housing environments can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes. The safe places for youth pilot program could provide a resource to address some of these influences and mitigate or prevent negative effects on youth and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

LATE TESTIMONY
LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697: RELATING TO YOUTH

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair; Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair,
and members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Jenny Lee, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Partners In Care

Hearing: **Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:30 AM, Room 329**

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1697, creating a five-year safe places for youth pilot program. This program would establish a network of safe places where youth can ask for help and access the services and support that they need. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am an Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness.

Through a safe places program, Hawai'i's youth facing crisis situations would have a place to turn for immediate help and safety at any hour. Partners In Care supports the creation of a network of safe places as a means to prevent youth homelessness. Service providers who work with unaccompanied and homeless young people have indicated that such a program could help ensure youth are connected with effective services before they run away and become homeless.

Many youth run away due to family problems such as abuse, neglect, or an inability to cope with a family member's substance use or mental illness. Children may also be pushed out of their home due to conflict or their family's inability to provide or care for them. Others may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, mental illness, or substance use disorders. A safe places program would target these vulnerable young people and help provide them and their families with appropriate services and follow-up support.

Without appropriate intervention, a runaway youth is at serious risk of homelessness. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 8 and 10 will run away at some point. Studies have also shown that youth ages 12 to 17 are at greater risk of homelessness than adults. Once a youth has become homeless, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Homeless youth are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are at greater risk of mental health struggles, including severe anxiety, depression, and suicide. Some turn to selling drugs or prostitution just to survive. They also face substantial barriers to continuing their education: three-quarters of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school. These sad consequences can have a lifelong impact that may never be fully overcome.

PIC believes that a safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness. Again, thank you for providing Partners In Care the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1697.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697: RELATING TO YOUTH

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair; Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Connie Mitchell, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.

Hearing: Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:30 AM, Room 329

Dear Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1697, creating a safe places pilot program for youth. This program would establish a network of safe places where youth can ask for help and access the services and support that they need. IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc. provides an array of homelessness prevention and post-shelter services including housing placement and rental assistance for at-risk families including children's enrichment services.

Through a safe places program, Hawai'i's youth facing crisis situations would have a place to turn for immediate help and safety at any hour. IHS works with unaccompanied and homeless young people and believes that such a program could help ensure youth are connected with effective services before they run away and become homeless. Many youth run away due to family problems such as abuse, neglect, or an inability to cope with a family member's substance use or mental illness. Children may also be pushed out of their home due to conflict or their family's inability to provide or care for them. Others may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, mental illness, or substance use disorders. A safe places program would target these vulnerable young people and help provide them and their families with appropriate services and follow-up support.

Without appropriate intervention, a runaway youth is at serious risk of homelessness. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 8 and 10 will run away at some point. Studies have also shown that youth ages 12 to 17 are at greater risk of homelessness than adults. Once a youth has become homeless, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Homeless youth are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are at greater risk of mental health struggles, including severe anxiety, depression, and suicide. Some turn to selling drugs or prostitution just to survive. They also face substantial barriers to continuing their education: three-quarters of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school. These sad consequences can have a lifelong impact that may never be fully overcome.

Please pass HB 1697, a safe places program for youth has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness.

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:36 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1697 on Jan 28, 2014 09:30AM

HB1697

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for HUS on Jan 28, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Teresa Parsons | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I stand in STRONG support of this pilot program to establish a safe place for at-risk children. Too often, adolescents must choose between the risks of living on the street or the risks of remaining in an unsafe home environment. We must stand up for the children of Hawai'i as they are our future. Providing a program to establish a safe place is a great start and I anticipate this pilot program will prove the need is present. I urge all committee members to support this bill. Mahalo for allowing this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE TESTIMONY

January 28, 2014

Ellen K. Awai
3329 Kanaina Ave. #304
Honolulu, HI 96815
Cell: (808) 551-7676
Awai76@aol.com

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair of the Human Services Committee & Members
Hearing on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:30 a.m. in Room #329

SUBJECT: HB1697 Relating to Youth's Safe Places, Please support!

As a member of various health taskforces and a previous volunteer and attendee of the 2012 annual children and youth summit, I am in strong support of this bill to create a youth safe places program.

With a master of science in Criminal Justice Administration (MSCJA) from Chaminade University, I am a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. I have also been an exempt employee with Hawaii's Adult Mental Health Division training certified peer specialists, individuals with lived experiences throughout the state and have heard from various people.

In 2005, when I became a member of the SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services, National Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Consumer Survivor Issues, a huge concern was about the mental health access for youth up to 25 years old. Programs such as "What a Difference a Friend Makes!" and other federal programs addressing teen suicide and bullying have come out of Washington DC years ago, but has slowly affected Hawaii. Even President Obama's Affordable Care Act was directed to youth enrollment to get insurance.

Being an advocate for over 10 years and having a 28-year-old daughter, issues of a teenage child being forced into drug and sex trafficking are rampant, where the family had nowhere to turn for help. In schools, there are cases of bullying and suicides, where teachers, counselors, and administration do not address the problem properly. As a recent graduate student, even colleges face a high rate of suicide because of educational or relationship failures. Nationally, campus health centers have not been effective because of a person's fear of a mental illness diagnosis stigma they may face from others and sometimes violence, death, and destruction have broken out in an entire community.

Please support bill HB1697!

Mahalo and Aloha!



Ellen K. Awai, MSCJA, BBA, CPRP, HCPS
Behavioral Health Advocate