

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HB2037, HD1, Relating to Project Kealahou

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

March 28, 2014, 09:30 a.m., Room 211

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports passage of this measure,
2 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive
3 Supplemental Budget Request.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** An estimated \$216,701 in general funds, to be expended by the DOH in Fiscal
5 Year 2014-2015 will be required to retain three specially trained Intensive Support Workers in Project
6 Kealahou as the amount of the federal funding is incrementally reduced. The personnel cost for
7 maintaining the three positions is \$216,701 (base salary of \$45,000 each, 42.04% fringe, and 13.01%
8 indirect cost). The Executive Budget Request to the 2014 Legislature for DOH requests a \$50,000
9 appropriation to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (HTH 460) for Project Kealahou.

10 Together with the Governor's \$50,000 budget request, \$166,701 in general funds is necessary to keep
11 the three experienced Intensive Support Workers on staff to continue their work with traumatized girls.

12 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to ensure the continuation of Project
13 Kealahou ("new pathways" in Hawaiian), a six-year federally-funded grant. The funding will allow the
14 project to continue its mission to provide girls with a community-based, individualized, culturally and

1 linguistically competent, family-driven, youth-guided, and evidence based services as federal funding
2 incrementally steps down.

3 Project Kealahou is an innovative new program that was designed to address challenges
4 encountered by adolescent girls. It emphasizes gender-responsive and trauma-informed care for females
5 age eleven through twenty-one who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. Over the past 3
6 years, 150 girls have been served. Data collected to date indicate that the program is effective at
7 engaging youth, improving girls' functioning and at reducing the strain felt by their parents. At six
8 months follow-up, there was demonstrated improvement, such as decreased youth impairment,
9 decreased youth depression, decreased youth behavior or emotional problems, reduced arrest rates,
10 improved youth competence, and improved school attendance. Project Kealahou offers a relatively low-
11 cost array of community-based services and supports that provide cost-effective deterrents and
12 alternatives to more expensive and disruptive out-of- home placements for youth and a range of cultural
13 and recreational community-based group activities to help youth and their families.

14 Currently Project Kealahou is funded through a federal grant. As we near the end of the grant,
15 the amount of the grant has been incrementally reduced and will fully expire in 2016. To continue
16 working with the target population of traumatized girls, we are requesting that Project Kealahou
17 maintain its full staffing complement in the next year. Without additional funds, we will need to let go of
18 three experienced Intensive Support Workers, and the girls they serve could be re-traumatized when
19 they lose their close relationships with trusted adults.

20 We appreciate and thank the Women's Legislative Caucus for championing this important
21 program. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2014, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

By

R. Mark Browning
Deputy Chief Judge, Senior Family Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2037, HD1, Relating to Project Kealahou

Purpose: Appropriates monies for the continued funding of Project Kealahou, within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health division of the Department of Health. Effective July 1, 2050. (HD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 2037, House Draft 1, which will enable Project Kealahou to continue operating after a six year appropriation of federal funds ends this year.

Several years ago, when the family court began researching the need for a Girls Court, two primary findings became clear early in our research: (1) nearly all of the girls in the court system, regardless of age, had suffered major trauma and were exhibiting acting out behaviors in an effort to cope with the past trauma and (2) the juvenile justice system, developed in response to boys' misbehaviors, had very little expertise when it came to dealing with girls.

Project Kealahou has and continues to address these two findings. The program has and continues to provide valuable services to girls who have suffered from child abuse/neglect,



House Bill No. 2037, H.D.1, Relating to Project Kealahou
Senate Committee of Ways and Means
Friday, March 28, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

bullying, domestic violence, date rape, exploitation by older men in the sex trade, and human trafficking. Project Kealahou provides a spectrum of services including specialized therapy as well as in-community, holistic strategies such as mentoring and peer support. Of equal importance to their direct service delivery, Project Kealahou has also begun very important steps to share their hard earned expertise by writing curriculum for professional training and have begun plans to offer this training to other service providers.

Project Kealahou is an important partner to the family court. Failure to fund its continuation will result in the loss of crucial expertise and will deprive critical services to our most vulnerable youth. Such loss will result in human and economic losses for the youth and our community. We respectfully request passage of this bill with an approved appropriation amount and that the funding become effective in the state's next fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

March 24, 2014

Dear Hawai'i State Legislator:

I am writing to you to encourage your support for legislation HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This project is funded under a 6-year grant from SAMHSA, which has made a positive impact in the lives of Hawai'i girls navigating pathways to healing from trauma in a way that is culturally-relevant, gender-specific, family-driven and youth-centered.

Project Kealahou has also been active in reaching and educating our community about trauma-informed care and how to create supportive and healing environments for our most vulnerable youth. The developmental, economic, and social impact of experiencing trauma takes a heavy toll at all levels of our society, right down to families and individuals like you and me, and persists over generations.

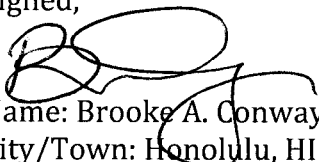
As an innovative, evidence-based project, Project Kealahou should not only be sustained but **expanded** in our community. Mental health and wellness needs are not decreasing. They are barely surfacing and telling us we need to pay attention to what is happening with our youth. Intervening and providing support and life skills earlier can prevent the onset of severe mental health disorders later in life. Those who already meet criteria for mental health conditions can lessen their symptoms or recover completely with the right interventions and supportive environment.

As a public health mental health professional with many years of experience in the field, I support this bill because Project Kealahou provides hope and healing for Hawai'i girls, supports families to care for their keiki, and educates our wider community about the impacts of trauma and how to become more trauma-informed. We need this program to both cope with and prevent trauma and the far reaching effects it has on health, social, emotional, spiritual, and communal wellbeing.

We need Project Kealahou to continue providing this service to our keiki, caregivers, and Hawai'i ohana. Please provide your support to sustain them beyond their grant in 2015. Your support for this legislation is crucial and as a constituent I am asking you to represent my vote for a "Yes" on HB2037 HD1/SB2449.

If you believe in supporting hope, then you will support Project Kealahou. Mahalo.

Signed,



Name: Brooke A. Conway
City/Town: Honolulu, HI

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

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 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

March 25, 2014

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of HB 2037 HD 1 Relating to Project Kealahou

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2037 HD 1 Relating to Project Kealahou.

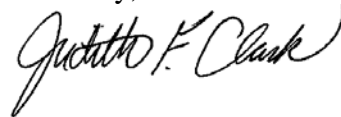
Project Kealahou provides mental health and family support services to girls who have experienced trauma. The program is currently funded through a federal grant that will be phased out.

Funding from the Hawaii Legislature will allow this effective, evidence-informed program to continue to provide therapy and education to the girls and their families, which results in better parent/child communication and increased school attendance. The program reduces the risk of suicide and family violence as well as future involvement in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

I have served on the Executive Committee for Project Kealahou for the past 5 years and have seen the positive effects on the youth and their families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kat.caphi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 12:04:01 AM

HB2037

Submitted on: 3/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments: Please fund this program for girls. This is an investment in Hawai`i's future! Mahalo Community Alliance on Prisons

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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CONFIDENTIAL

STATE OF HAWAII
Department of Health
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division
3627 Kilauea Avenue, Room 101
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 733-9859 Facsimile: (808) 733-9875
Phone Toll Free from Outer Islands: (800) 468-4644

The total number of pages in this transmission, including this header page, is 17
Please call me if you do not receive them all.

3/27/2014

Date

--TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means FAX: 808-586-6231

FROM: Chuck Murata, Project Kealahou, Project Assistant

SUBJECT: Testimony from Community Members, form letters in support

FYI For your action. Please Review and Respond by:
 Other

MESSAGE:

Hi,

Here are a few form letter testimony in support of HB2037, HD1 Relating to Project Kealahou.

We are submitting this on behalf of these individuals.

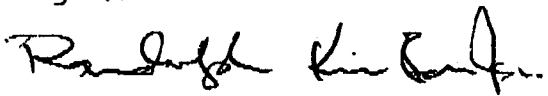
Thanks,

Chuck Murata
Project Assistant

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed, 


Name: RANDOLPH KIM SEU JR.

City/Town: HONOLULU, HI. 96816

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

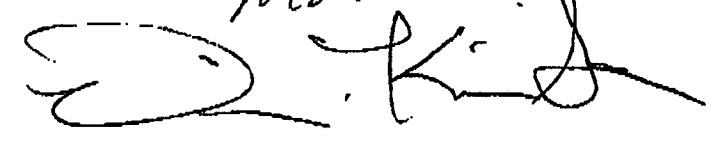
Signed, 

Name: Vivian K. Kim Sen

City/Town: Honolulu, HI 96814

I Vivian Kim Sen Have been w/Project Kealahou in 2 years. They serve 3 of my girls. That have been Reunited w/Me after 7 years of being in foster home. Project Kealahou is a access program that my girls have where they can meet others girls and share their experience. And engage w/ other youth girls to explore wonderful things Project Kealahou has to offer. Me as a parent love to here what subjects they have to offer. I really take and engage anything Project Kealahou has to offer.

PS. Please feel free to call me @ 9195385.

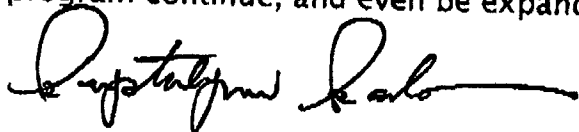
Mahalo!


March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded.

Signed,



Name:

KRYSTALYNN KADO

City/Town:

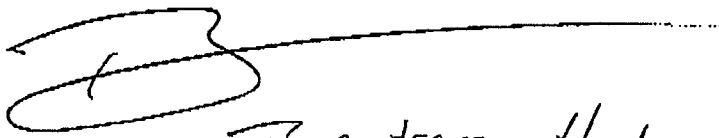
HONOLULU, HI

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in the lives, and truly begin to heal. Please pass this bill.

Signed,



Name:

Bertram Hartsok

City/Town:

Manoa, Honolulu HI 96822

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in the lives, and truly begin to heal. Please pass this bill.

Signed,

Name: Katherine DeMent

City/Town: Honolulu, HI 96816

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in the lives, and truly begin to heal. Please pass this bill.

Signed,

Name:

Tia L. Roberts

City/Town:

Kaimuki, HI



96816

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded.

Signed,

Name:

Deina Kall

City/Town:

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in the lives, and truly begin to heal. Please pass this bill.

Signed,

Name:

Stan Untch

City/Town:

Honolulu, HI

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed, *Shannon H. Cathcart*

Name: *Shannon H. Cathcart*

City/Town: *Honolulu, HI*

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed, *Alexis Marie Kallan*

Name: *Maire Kallave*

City/Town: *Faunakakai, Molokai*

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed, *Bryana DeAguiar*

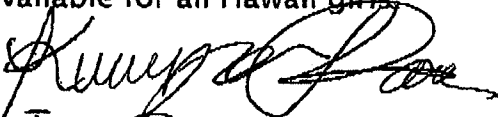
Name: *Bryana DeAguiar*

City/Town: *Kealahou Big Island*

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed, 

Name: Ipo Pau

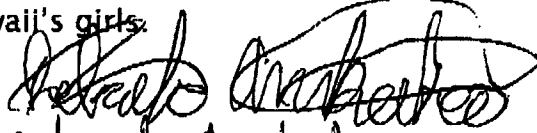
City/Town: Koloa, Kauai

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed,



Name: Gabriela Anakalea

City/Town: Kilauea, Kawaii

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed, 
Name: Kamikilani Horner

City/Town: Hookeheea, Molokai

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed, *Simone Ross*

Name: *Simone Ross*

City/Town: *Kailua, Oahu*

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed, *William Buhk*

Name: *KATHERINE Buhk*

City/Town: *KOHOA, KAUAI*

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:44:54 PM

HB2037

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a social worker who has worked with youth and young adults for 15 years, I strongly support Project Kealahou. I have been on the governing/guiding council for several years and have seen the good work that the project has been able to do. The trauma informed approach of the project has not only helped the individual girls that they have worked with, but has also promoted a system-wide review of how we intervene with "at risk" youth. By understanding their trauma histories and flipping the coin to see them as "at promise" instead of "at risk" Project Kealahou has been able to support their strengths and make a positive impact on the youth and families they have worked with. I urge the Committee to support funding for this important program.

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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March 24, 2014

Dear Hawai'i State Legislator:

I am writing to you to encourage your support for legislation HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This project is funded under a 6-year grant from SAMHSA, which has made a positive impact in the lives of Hawai'i girls navigating pathways to healing from trauma in a way that is culturally-relevant, gender-specific, family-driven and youth-centered.

Project Kealahou has also been active in reaching and educating our community about trauma-informed care and how to create supportive and healing environments for our most vulnerable youth. The developmental, economic, and social impact of experiencing trauma takes a heavy toll at all levels of our society, right down to families and individuals like you and me, and persists over generations.


As an innovative, evidence-based project, Project Kealahou should not only be sustained but **expanded** in our community. Mental health and wellness needs are not decreasing. They are barely surfacing and telling us we need to pay attention to what is happening with our youth. Intervening and providing support and life skills earlier can prevent the onset of severe mental health disorders later in life. Those who already meet criteria for mental health conditions can lessen their symptoms or recover completely with the right interventions and supportive environment.

As a public health mental health professional with many years of experience in the field, I support this bill because Project Kealahou provides hope and healing for Hawai'i girls, supports families to care for their keiki, and educates our wider community about the impacts of trauma and how to become more trauma-informed. We need this program to both cope with and prevent trauma and the far reaching effects it has on health, social, emotional, spiritual, and communal wellbeing.

We need Project Kealahou to continue providing this service to our keiki, caregivers, and Hawai'i ohana. Please provide your support to sustain them beyond their grant in 2015. Your support for this legislation is crucial and as a constituent I am asking you to represent my vote for a "Yes" on HB2037 HD1/SB2449.

If you believe in supporting hope, then you will support Project Kealahou. Mahalo.

Signed,



Name: Brooke A. Conway
City/Town: Honolulu, HI

From: [Camille Chong](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 2037 relating to Project Kealahou
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:15:53 AM

Aloha WAM committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2037. I would like show strong support of this bill. Project Kealahou is a program that provides gender-specific, trauma-informed programming to girls in the juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and education systems. I am a teacher in the Department of Education and would like to see this program continue as it supports the many needs of girls in our community.

I humbly ask you to support this bill to allow Project Kealahou to continue helping girls, their families, and the community heal from interpersonal trauma.

Thank you,
Camille Chong

Voting resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, 96826

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cymbase@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 7:45:45 PM

HB2037

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chuck Murata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure to help continue funding for Project Kealahou. Would like to see the amount asked in the Department of Health's testimony be the amount appropriated. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB2037, HD1 Relating to Project Kealahou.

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From: [Julia Rocca](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Project Kealahou
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:40:30 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. As a clinical psychologist I understand that trauma informed care is an important priority for the youth of our state. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed,

Julia Rocca, PsyD

Kaimuki

From: [OLIVER, JUSTIN](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449.
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:35:53 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded.

Signed,

Name: Justin Oliver, LCSW

City/Town: The Family Treatment Center, Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, HI

From: [Tia Roberts](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 2037 relating to Project Kealahou
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:10:58 AM

Aloha WAM committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2037. I would like to show strong support of this bill. Project Kealahou is a program that provides gender-specific, trauma-informed programming to girls in the juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and education systems.

In Hawai`i, we have one of the highest arrest rates for girls, many of whom have experienced significant trauma. Addressing trauma through culturally-resonant, gender-specific, and trauma-informed services is critical. Project Kealahou not only helps girls heal from the trauma by working with them one on one, but also provides training and support for service providers, families, and community organizations to better understand the effects of trauma on adolescent development, and how to work more effectively with survivors of trauma.

I humbly ask you to support this bill to allow Project Kealahou to continue helping girls, their families, and the community heal from interpersonal trauma.

Thank you,
Tia L. Roberts

Voting resident of Kaimuki, Hawaii, 96816

From: [alohagirl](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR HB2037, HD1 Relating to Project Kealahou
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:57:54 AM

Aloha

I want to support Project Kealahou's bill, HB2037. I feel that P.K has provided much needed services for young girls facing troubled situations and trauma.

I believe that PK's gender specific approach and care will be tremendous in addressing the issues many young women face as we can better understand their needs.

We need everyone's kokua in supporting families with this type of service.

Mahalo,
Toney Kaipo Kim
Social Worker, Kaimuki