



From: [Jeannine](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for HB2037 HD1 (Project Kealahou) - WAM Room 211 - 3/28/14 - 9:30 AM
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:24:34 PM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members:

As a private individual, I am testifying in strong support for HB 2037, HD 1, to appropriate funding for the continuation of Project Kealahou.

Project Kealahou addresses critical gaps in state's juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, and education systems to bring valuable life skills to adolescent girls who have experienced significant trauma in their lives.

The State Judiciary affirmed the importance of this program and noted, in its testimony on February 20, 2014, that nearly all of the girls in the court system had experienced major trauma from child abuse/neglect, bullying, domestic violence, date rape, or sexual exploitation. It also found that the state juvenile justice system had very little expertise when dealing with girls.

Project Kealahou fills this gap and helps girls in the juvenile justice system heal and gain support through mentoring, counseling and other group activities.

I humbly urge your passage of this bill and appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this program.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Souki



From: [lindsay.lindenbach](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 2037 relating to Project Kealahou
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:28:49 PM

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. As an educator in the public school system, I am well-aware of the need for various supports, such as Project Kealahou, to help support our youth.

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,
Lindsay Lindenbach

Voting resident of Moiliili, Hawaii, 96826

LATE



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DATE: 3/27/14

TO: Chair David Ige, and members, House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marya Grambs, Mental Health America of Hawaii

RE MEASURE #: http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2014/Bills/SB2211_SD2_.pdf

HB2037, HD1

HEARING AT: WAM, 9:30, Friday 3/28/14

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on providing funding support to Project Kealahou. Mental Health America of Hawaii is the State's oldest mental health organization, operating for over 70 years.

The effects of trauma on people are increasingly well known. Adolescent girls, in particular, are at great risk of being harmed by trauma – being abused physically or sexually in the home, witnessing domestic violence and/or substance abuse at home, and experiencing physical and sexual abuse by their boyfriends. Girls are cyberbullied at higher rates than boys. We have one of the highest rates in the nation of high school girls who missed a day of school during the previous month because they felt unsafe at or on their way to school.

Project Kealahou has pioneered in developing services and trainings so that girls who have experienced trauma receive appropriate and sensitive help, including peer support, and that agencies who serve adolescent girls become knowledgeable in how to best provide services to these girls.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: admin@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 28, 2014 09:30AM
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:13:39 PM

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
Melissa Pavlicek	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Project Kealahou is an important initiative to help the entire community but assisting girls who are the victims of trauma. Please support his program.

Melissa Pavlicek

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March 28, 2014

Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means



Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 2037, HD1– Relating to Project Kealahou – Support
Committee on Ways and Means – March 28, 2014, 9:30 a.m. – Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

My name is Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of O‘ahu, testifying in support for HB 2037, HD1, to appropriate \$50,000 in funding for Project Kealahou.

Project Kealahou is a federally funded initiative that bridges juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, and education systems to bring life skills and build support for girls between ages 11 to 18 who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. The program helps adolescent girls reconnect with their land, themselves, and their families through activities such as Girls Circle, individual support and mentoring and other group activities.

We firmly believe this legislative appropriation is much needed to preserve this safety net and to connect gaps in funding that provides service to girls connected with Project Kealahou. For these reasons, we humbly urge members of this committee to pass this bill.

Since its founding in 1900, the YWCA of O‘ahu exists to cultivate opportunities for women’s and girls’ growth and leadership, to help them create fulfilling lives for themselves and their families, and facilitating social change with positive economic impact for their communities.

Sincerely,

Noriko Namiki
CEO
YWCA of O‘ahu