



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

HB 2037, Relating to Project Kealahou

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

Friday, January 24, 2014, 9:00 a.m., Rm. 329

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health Strongly Supports this Bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** \$50,000

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to ensure the continuation of Project
4 Kealahou ("new pathways" in Hawaiian), a six-year federally-funded grant. The funding will allow the
5 project to continue its mission to provide girls with a community-based, individualized, culturally and
6 linguistically competent, family-driven, youth-guided, and evidence based services as federal funding
7 incrementally steps down. The project has been funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
8 Administration (SAMHSA) beginning in 2010. Funding is decreasing in FY2014, will decrease further
9 in FY2015 and will end the following year.

10 Over the past 5 years, almost 300 girls have been referred for services. An extensive evaluation
11 component is included in the project. Data collected to date show that the program is effective at
12 engaging youth, improving girls' functioning and also at reducing the strain felt by their parents.
13 Without additional funding, some of the clinical services will be reduced. Continuing the full program

1 will mean both serving more families and obtaining more information about what is effective with girls
2 in the targeted population.

3 Housed within The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health,
4 Project Kealahou was developed in response to broad recognition among leaders and workers in
5 Hawaii's public child-serving system that established treatment programs do not adequately address
6 challenges encountered by adolescent girls.

7 Project Kealahou emphasizes gender-responsive and trauma-informed care when serving its
8 target audience of adolescent females age eleven through twenty-one who have experienced significant
9 trauma in their lives. Project Kealahou offers a relatively low-cost array of community-based services
10 and supports that provide cost-effective deterrents and alternatives to more expensive and disruptive out-
11 of-home placements for youth and a range of cultural and recreational community-based group activities
12 to help youth and their families.

13 We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities
14 indicated in our Executive Budget. The Executive Budget Request to the 2014 Legislature for the
15 Department of Health requests a \$50,000 appropriation to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health
16 Division (HTH 460) for Project Kealahou.

17 We appreciate and thank the Women's Caucus for championing this important program. We
18 thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



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LESLIE WILKINS

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January 24, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, HB2037, Relating to Project Kealahou

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2037, Relating to Project Kealahou. Project Kealahou offers the only trauma informed system of mental health care for Hawaii's most vulnerable girls and young women who have experienced significant trauma. They do this with minimal staffing and minimal budget. Project Kealahou's federal funding is set to phase out in 2014. HB 2037 would appropriate \$50,000.00 to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health to ensure that Project Kealahou's important work and mission can continue.

The Commission strongly supports HB 2037 and the continued funding of Project Kealahou.

January 24, 2014

Honorable Della Au Belatti
Chair, Committee on Health

Honorable Dee Morikawa
Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Re: HB2037 – Relating to Project Kealahou – Support
House Committee on Health – January 24, 2014 – Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the committee:

My name is Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of O'ahu, testifying in support for HB2037, 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 HB2037.

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

for every woman

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

January 23, 2014

To: Representative Bella Au Belatti, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

Testimony in Support of HB 2037 Relating to Project Kealahou

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

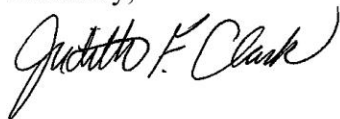
Project Kealahou provides mental health and family support services to girls who have experienced trauma. The program is currently funded through a federal grant that will be phased out.

Funding from the Hawaii Legislature will allow this effective, evidence-based 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

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 7:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: admin@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM

HB2037

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 24, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawaii Public Policy Advocates	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Project Kealahou is an extremely important and effective program in the state Dept. of Health to assist girls who have been the victims of trauma. Providing minimal additional state funding, the program will be able to continue to access federal funding. Please support this 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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January 24, 2014, 9:00 am, Conference Room 329

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Laura Puakina Paul, MSW

Chairs and Committee Members:

I support HB 2037 relating to Project Kealahou. I was part of the original grant writing team that crafted the proposal for Project Kealahou and in the past year and a half I have been providing consultation services to the project.

Project Kealahou was created from the recognition that the child serving system in place was not meeting the needs of girls. Girls develop in unique and powerful ways that require specialized focus. Programs that are designed for boys do not address the unique and complex needs of girls. Most programs focus on rules and offer ways to advance through structured systems but this type of program only meets the needs of boys, not girls. Girls need programs that focus on relationships and offer ways for them to master their lives while maintaining relationships.

Lack of gender appropriate programming has resulted in girls being traumatized or re-traumatized by a system that was trying to help. Because girls are 3-4 time more likely to be victims of sexual abuse and are prone to running away as a maladaptive means of coping, girls are placed in highly restrictive setting such as Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, Detention Home or locked residential treatment programs to keep them safe. These types of settings are costly and are not designed to meet the gender specific needs of girls, thus they often have no lasting impact beyond keeping the girls physically safe for the time she is in the program. This is a waste of state resources while damaging to girls whose sense of self is greatly impacted by these experiences.

Project Kealahou was specifically developed to meet the need gender specific needs of girls. Girls need emotionally safe environments that create opportunities for them to develop relationship of trust and interdependence with others. They need to have mentors who have shared experiences that resonate with the realities of girls' lives and who exemplify survival. Girls need to have a voice and choice about what happens within the program so she can be in control of her life and recovery, especially for those that have experienced trauma. For girls to heal they need time for girl talk, for girls to conduct emotionally safe, comforting, challenging and nurturing conversations within ongoing relationships. These are exactly the components that Project Kealahou provides that allow girls to achieve their full potential.

Project Kealahou is a grant project that piloted a gender specific trauma informed approach to treatment that is community-based. It has shown itself to be cost effective and efficacious program for a historically difficult to engage population of girls. Project Kealahou need to be available for girls now and in the future to ensure appropriate treatment that is gender specific and trauma informed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Laura Puakina Paul