



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

**Written Testimony in Support of  
HB 2489 Relating to Juvenile Justice**

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair**

**February 6, 2014  
2 p.m. Room 325**

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har and members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for scheduling a hearing on HB 2489 Relating to Juvenile Justice.

The Office of the Governor submits written testimony in **support** of HB 2489 Relating to Juvenile Justice. This measure makes an appropriation to the Family Court division of the Judiciary and the Office of Youth Services for evidenced-based practices and programs that will reduce youth delinquency as well as fund mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Due to the timing of submitting our supplemental budget to the Legislature in December, we did not have an opportunity to review this appropriation request from the Juvenile Justice working group in time to include in the executive budget. However, this request supports the policy recommendations proposed in HB 2490 and is an essential part of reforming our juvenile justice system. This appropriation will be used to fund evidenced-based practices, programs and treatment services for court-involved youth or youth who are on probation and give our Family Court judges additional options to refer troubled youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2489.



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

### **Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**

The Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Hon. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 6, 2014  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 2489, Relating to Juvenile Justice.

**Purpose:** appropriates funds to DHS/OYS to fund evidence-based practices for mental health, substance abuse, and other strategies in order to reduce recidivism of youth who may otherwise be placed in HYCF.

### **Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports passage of House Bill No. 2489 appropriating funds to the Department of Human Services/Office of Youth Services to fund evidence-based practices for mental health, substance abuse, and other strategies in order to reduce recidivism of youth who may otherwise be placed at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF).

The Hawaii Juvenile Justice Working Group was established in August of 2013 by Governor Neil Abercrombie, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim, and House Speaker Joseph Souki. The mission of the Working Group was “to develop policy recommendations that will accelerate reductions in the state’s use of secure beds for lower-level juvenile offenders while protecting public safety and increasing positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities. The Working Group was charged with analyzing Hawaii’s data, policies, and practices; reviewing research on evidence-based principles and national best practices; and recommending policies that will move Hawaii toward a more effective, equitable and efficient juvenile justice system (2).” The Working Group’s Final Report was completed on December 13, 2013.



This bill addresses a number of the Working Group’s recommendations, including:

- Recommendation 1: Focus HYCF Beds on More Serious Youth
- Recommendation 2: Reinvest the Savings in Local Alternatives
- Recommendation 3: Provide Funding for Critical Treatment and Services in Communities
- Recommendation 4: Refocus Efforts on Substance Abuse Needs
- Recommendation 17: Create Graduated Sanctions and Incentives for Probated Youth
- Recommendation 18: Invest in Proven Practices to Reduce Reoffending.

The Final Report contains the good news that both arrests and admissions to the Hawaii Youth Corrections Facility (HYCF) have significantly decreased in the past decade. However, many serious challenges remain and, while the state has made strides in establishing a continuum of services, the current profile of youth in HYCF, including many non-serious offenders and youth with little juvenile justice contact, is evidence of the need for sustained and increasingly significant improvements to this continuum. Besides the more obvious advantages relative to public safety and effective rehabilitation, in-community services make fiscal sense. “State leaders across the nation have recognized that combining a more focused use of secure facilities with a continuum of services for youth can result in less recidivism, more rehabilitation of youth, and lower costs for taxpayers (4).”

The Working Group’s close review and analysis of the available data yielded very specific conclusions, which will hopefully be extremely useful as lawmakers reach decisions regarding appropriations.

The Working Group’s recommendations, taken together, are projected to accelerate current trends, reducing the HYCF average daily population by at least 60 percent by 2019. These shifts in resources will allow the closure of the Ho‘okipa Makai cottage during the 2015 fiscal year, and in total are projected to save Hawaii taxpayers at least \$11 million over the next five fiscal years. The Working Group recommends that the state make targeted reinvestments – estimated at \$2 million per year – of these anticipated savings to strengthen juvenile probation and reduce recidivism. Some policy recommendations will require the rededication of existing staff time, while some require the use of reinvested funds. In either case, an investment now will produce significant returns for the foreseeable future in the form of reduced reoffending and more youth set on a path to productive, law-abiding lives (10-11).



At its core, probation provides critical in-community supervision that supports and sustains adjudicated youth in the community and out of secure facilities. Every child who is successful at probation is a child who is not in a secure facility.

Similar to HYCF, the number of youth placed on probation has also declined. However, that number has not decreased at a rate that matches the decrease in arrests. Also, the length that youth spend on probation has significantly increased, while the types of offenses have remained stable. A key finding of the Final Report is: “Overwhelmingly, juvenile justice system stakeholders provided information to the Working Group about the lack of a continuum of interventions for juvenile offenders and difficulty accessing the services that do exist (9).”

Two of the Working Group’s recommendations are particularly relevant to this bill. The findings related to these two recommendations are of such importance and such relevance to this bill that they are extensively quoted here:

**Recommendation 3: Provide Funding for Critical Treatment and Services in Communities**

The Working Group found that the overwhelming majority of all arrests of juveniles in Hawaii are for minor, non-violent offenses and status offenses. Stakeholders report that, often, the underlying causes of these offenses include family dysfunction, trauma, and substance abuse, which can go woefully unaddressed due to a lack of available services. The Working Group believes that these arrests often multiply and lead to the inappropriate and excessive involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Working Group recommends that services to address these mental health and social issues be increased and addressed statewide, and that the necessary funding be allocated through one of the child-serving agencies, to meet the myriad of mental health and social needs that our at-risk youth and their families struggle with on a daily basis. The Working Group also finds a stated need from stakeholders for secure mental health treatment, and recommends support for this need.

**Recommendation 4: Refocus Efforts on Substance Abuse Needs**

The heavy toll from substance abuse issues found in many juvenile justice system-involved youth and their families is a significant burden. Working Group members estimated that 80 percent of youth involved in the Hawaii juvenile justice system suffer from substance abuse.



Abuse, dependence, and addictions are serious challenges for Hawaii, and if left untreated in our juvenile populations, it could lead to joblessness, homelessness, increasing rates of delinquency and criminality, and additional prison beds. These outcomes could create significant costs that consume an inordinate percentage of our spending.

The Working Group found that a common denominator in many delinquent acts is substance abuse, making the dearth in available services all the more troubling. The Working Group recommends that resources be allocated to address substance abuse in Hawaii's four counties, including both residential and outpatient services (12).

HB 2489 is practically based on the Final Reports conclusion that: "Every dollar spent on secure confinement is a dollar Hawaii could otherwise use to build the fully-resourced, evidence-based continuum of supervision and services for delinquent youth that was envisioned during the creation of the Office of Youth Services (OYS) in 1989 (1)." The bill contains an appropriations formula that provides incentive to both the DHS/OYS and the family court to apply evidence-based practices primed to prevent HYCF placements and to maximize utilizing in-community, local alternatives.

The Working Group's Final Report clearly connects the dots between public safety, restricting HYCF to serious offenders, developing a continuum of services, expanding local alternatives based on evidence-based practices, and saving public monies by smart reinvestment. The Working Group has performed a remarkable and tangible service for this state—not just for youthful offenders and their families—but for everyone. Everyone benefits when public safety can be strengthened and when children are given the tools to reach healthy and productive futures.

The Judiciary strongly supports the passage of House Bill No. 2489.

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



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

February 5, 2014

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: H.B. 2489 – RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 6, 2014; 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 2489 is to appropriate funds to the Family Court Division of the Judiciary and the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-based practices and mental health and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** OYS strongly supports H.B. 2489. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, a report was released to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Judiciary, which outlined several key data findings within our juvenile justice system that identified areas for improvement, and two dozen policy recommendations to increase the return on the investment Hawaii makes in its juvenile justice system.

The Working Group which issued this report was a 20-member bipartisan inter-branch group with stakeholders from every facet of juvenile justice, including the judiciary, law enforcement, prosecution, public defense, and community service providers. There were also 5 legislators, including the chairs from both the House and the Senate of the committees for public safety and human services, who served on the group.

The policy recommendations include targeted ways to enhance the effectiveness of juvenile probation, increase familial involvement throughout the juvenile justice system,

provide for needed substance abuse and mental health treatments, and make better use of HYCF.

The sad truth is that many of these youth suffer from very serious substance abuse or mental health issues, and that need far outpaces availability for these critical treatments. The Working Group recommended investments in these treatments, a program to reinvest savings from the HYCF budget, as well as specifically targeting barriers to access and easing institutional processes to leverage currently existing resources as quickly as possible.

Further, the Working Group recommended that probation programmatic expenditures be focused on evidence-based practices, which are proven to reduce the likelihood of future reoffending in youth. Several recommendations focus on strengthening probation to ensure that probation is an effective response to juvenile delinquency and holds youth accountable while putting them back on the right track.

In conjunction with H.B. 2490, we are confident that through these bills that our state can make both significant and long overdue strides in the field of juvenile justice by enhancing services at the “front end” of our juvenile justice system and thereby reducing recidivism.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

MITCHELL D. ROTH  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2489

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 6, 2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 2489.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Family Court Division of the Judiciary and the Office of Youth Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-based practices and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Many juvenile offenders suffer from serious substance abuse or mental health issues. It is vital to fund statewide practices that are proven to address these issues and reduce the likelihood of juvenile recidivism.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 2489. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell D. Roth".

Mitchell D. Roth  
Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Hawai'i



**Justin F. Kollar**  
Prosecuting Attorney

**Kevin K. Takata**  
First Deputy



**Rebecca A. Vogt**  
Second Deputy

**Diana Gausepohl-White, LCSW**  
Victim/Witness Program Director

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766

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Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
H.B. No. 2489  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Kauai

House Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, February 6, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Room 325

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the House  
Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kauai submits the following  
testimony in support of H.B. 2489, Relating to Juvenile Justice.

The purpose of H.B. 2489 is to appropriate funds to the Family Court Division  
of the Hawai'i State Judiciary and the Office of Youth Services in the  
Department of Human Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism  
through evidence-based practices and mental health and substance abuse  
treatment programs.

For this reason, we strongly support H.B. 2489 as this would provide the  
appropriate resources to assist in the rehabilitation of Hawai'i's youth within  
the Juvenile Justice System.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin F. Kollar".

Justin F. Kollar  
Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Kaua'i

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor



JOHN D. KIM  
Prosecuting Attorney  
ROBERT D. RIVERA  
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
150 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

CONTACT: RICHARD. K. MINATOYA  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Supervisor, Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Administrative Services Division

TESTIMONY  
ON  
HB 2489 - RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE  
February 6, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chair  
The Honorable Sharon E. Har  
Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, SUPPORTS HB 2489, Relating to Juvenile Justice. HB 2489 will appropriate funds to the family courts and the Office of Youth Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-based practices and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Many juvenile offenders are substance abusers or have mental health issues. Treatment programs are an important part of the effort to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism in our community. It is extremely important that these programs receive necessary funding.

Accordingly, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, SUPPORTS the passage of this bill. We ask that the committee PASS HB 2489.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

February 4, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

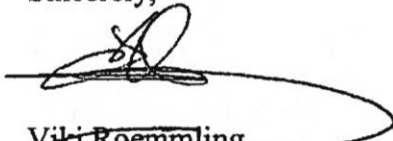
This in strong support of HB 2489 and 2490 regarding juvenile justice reform and enhanced services for our youth and their families.

As a counselor, working to prevent youth from further entering the juvenile justice system, it is apparent that expanded funding is a necessity to maintain and more importantly establish mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. Those of us who are based on the neighbor islands are in particular need of assistance where services are severely limited. As a result many of our youth are sent off-island to treatment facilities and the family therapy component becomes nearly impossible to facilitate.

The Maui Police Department Juvenile Crime Prevention Division has worked hard collaborating and coordinating services with judges, personnel from the Family Court, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Department of Education, Department of Health and numerous social service agencies to create and generate programs designed to keep youth safe and deter their involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Please consider the health and well-being of the families that require these essential services through your support of these very important bills. We appreciate your attention and thoughts on this matter. Again, thank you for your consideration to endorse these critical House Bills.

Sincerely,



Viki Roemmling  
Supervising Juvenile Counselor  
Juvenile Crime Prevention Division  
Maui Police Department

**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**Walter K.M. Lau**  
*Managing Director*

**Randall M. Kurohara**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: House Bill 2489 and 2490 RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

Aloha, Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my strong support of House Bill 2489, which appropriates funds to the Family Court Division of the Judiciary and the Office of Youth Services in the Department of Human Services to fund evidence-based programs that will reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism and House Bill 2490, which will enhance the juvenile justice system, strengthen juvenile probation, enhance interagency collaboration and establish a juvenile justice oversight advisory council.

These types of programs will support our most vulnerable and challenged youth and provide them with the direction and skills they need to develop into strong adults that make positive contributions to our society.

Aloha,

Wally Lau,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

# 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 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

February 4, 2014

To: Representative Karl Rhoads , Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

## Testimony in Support of HB 2489 Relating to Juvenile Justice

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2489 Relating to Juvenile Justice.

Youth who enter a juvenile prison are more likely to experience continued involvement in the juvenile and adult criminal justice system.

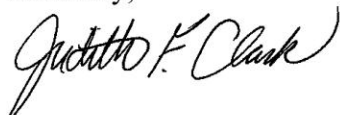
Many young people who commit crimes are in need of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. If they receive appropriate therapy and supports, they are unlikely to engage in further criminal behavior. Instead they can become contributing members of our community.

A 17 year old boy was recently shot in the wrist when he assaulted police officers who were arresting him for running away from home. If he had been able to obtain timely and appropriate mental health services, this unfortunate episode could have been prevented. Instead, it appears that his family will have to place him in an out-of-state facility because no program in Hawaii is not able to provide the level of care he needs.

Hawaii's youth need and deserve adequate and appropriate mental health and substance abuse services to reduce and prevent juvenile crime. Prevention and treatment services cost less than incarceration and the value to our community is huge.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



## Hale Kipa

615 Pi'ikoi Street, Suite 203 T 808 589-1829  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-3139 F 808 589-2610  
E [info@halekipa.org](mailto:info@halekipa.org)

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*Chief Executive Officer*

**Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka**  
*Deputy CEO*

**Dori Tyau**  
*Director of Human Resources*

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*Neighbor Island Board Liaison*

**Andy Levin**  
*Neighbor Island Board Liaison*

February 5, 2014

TO: Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

RE: HB 2489 Relating to Juvenile Justice  
Stance: SUPPORT

Dear Representatives Rhoads and Har,

Thank you for allowing Hale Kipa to testify in support of this bill. Hale Kipa serves many youth who have been arrested and are in the juvenile justice system. Our services work towards assisting youth get on track with their family, education and positive community living. In addition, we provide a variety of monitoring and support services to ensure youth meet their probationary requirements and remain arrest-free. Ensuring programs, based on proven practices, to respond to youth's needs quickly and early in their juvenile justice system involvement could change the tide and result in less costly incarceration.

Concurrently, many of our youth are challenged though by mental health or substance abuse needs and without services in these critical areas, it becomes difficult for them to be able to meet their probation conditions and achieve their long-term goals. Services in these areas are lacking in the State which discourages any advances the youth and his family are working towards. Funding that will allow more youth to access mental health and substance abuse treatment will truly turn the trajectory for these young people and they are fully worth the investment.

Please consider passing HB 2489 with adequate funding to make a difference.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW**  
Deputy CEO  
Hale Kipa, Inc.



**HB2489**

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 6, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Will Maemori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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**HB2489**

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 6, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB2489 funding is definitely needed for an investment in creating cost-effective, evidence-based practices to treat our youth who have fallen into the juvenile justice system and reduce future delinquency.

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**HB2489**

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 6, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james crowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB2489 and HB2490. These bills represent excellent, correct planning by us adults for these young people whose potential productive futures are in our hands.

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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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. GILL  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Judiciary**

**HB2489, Relating to Juvenile Justice**

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

**February 06, 2014, 2:00 p.m., Room 325**

1 **Department's Position:** We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely  
2 impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Amount of fiscal impact unknown.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure appropriates funds to the family court division of the  
5 judiciary and the office of youth services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-  
6 based practices and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

7 The department of health supports the work of, and appreciates serving on, the Hawaii Juvenile  
8 Justice Working Group which helped develop this measure and others, to implement the Working  
9 Group's recommendations to enhance the juvenile justice system.

10 The department supports provision of behavioral health services to youth with mental health and  
11 substance abuse challenges. The department has an array of substance abuse treatment services and  
12 mental health services, including evidence based programs and services.

13 We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness*

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org



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MARIE A. MCCAULEY  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RV-YZ

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
State House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2489, Relating to Juvenile Justice

I am Rade Vanic, Acting Captain of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2489, which appropriates funds to the Family Court and the Office of Youth Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism.

The HPD recognizes that early and effective intervention with juvenile offenders greatly reduces the likelihood of reoffending. The development of such intervention programs in a manner that does not involve the arrest of the juvenile is important to avoid the negative impact of an arrest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2489.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rade Vanic in black ink.

Rade Vanic, Acting Captain  
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Louis M. Kealoaha in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police

*Serving and Protecting With Aloha*

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

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## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 6, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

## SUPPORT FOR HB 2489 - FUNDING JUVENILE JUSTICE

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 2489 appropriates funds to the family court division of the judiciary and the office of youth services in the department of human services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-based practices and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, respectively.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. Funding essential services for our youth is vital to keeping them out of the web of the 'justice' system.

Our testimony on HB 2490 supports the need for funding to help our youth reach their fullest potential.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

To: Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary

From: Karen Worthington, JD  
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Submission date: February 5, 2014  
Hearing date: 2pm HST, February 6, 2014  
RE: Written testimony in support of HB 2489

Dear Committee members:

I urge you to pass HB2489. Please appropriate funds to the Family Court Division for the purpose of more effectively responding to the needs of youth accused of committing delinquent acts. Allocating funds to provide adequate treatment, programming, and supervision for youth in their communities will reduce youth recidivism and result in safer communities. Hawaii currently incarcerates too many young people, most of whom can be served in their home communities without presenting a public safety hazard.

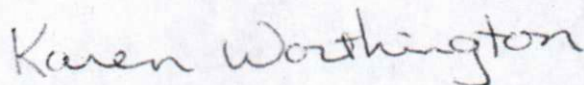
The sum allocated for this purpose must be large enough to provide appropriate, well-designed, and well-implemented services and programs. Evidence-based programming helps children and families because evidence-based programs are designed and implemented with adequate funds, staff, and evaluation and quality improvement components.

Hawaii spends about \$22.75 per hour to house a youth at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) on Oahu and about \$11.17 per hour to educate a youth in a public school. I urge your committee to reduce spending on secure confinement and increase spending on proven strategies that will help children succeed.

I also ask the committee to consider making statutory, policy, and practice changes that would allow Hawaii to draw down Title IV-E dollars for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. The extra funds that Hawaii could access would help offset the costs of providing alternatives to detention for youth in the juvenile justice system.

I am writing to you about this issue from my perspective as a children's policy attorney with 20 years of experience in juvenile justice and child welfare system reform, a parent, and a member of the Maui multi-agency Kulike Pono No Na Keiki group that meets regularly to improve outcomes for Maui youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Sincerely,



Karen Worthington



**Office of the Public Defender  
State of Hawaii  
Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender**



**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawaii to the House Committee on Judiciary**

February 6, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

H.B. Nos. 2489 & 2490: RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender stands in full support of H.B. 2489 and H.B. 2490. As attorneys working in our juvenile justice system on a daily basis, we have seen the need for the changes proposed by H.B. 2490 and the funding requested by H.B. 2489. These bills do not propose to spend more money on our juvenile justice system, but to help in the reallocation of funds currently being used in ways that would be more productive and helpful to our children. As a member of the Juvenile Justice Working Group, we learned through a data driven approach that the state of Hawaii has made strides in the betterment of our juvenile justice system. However, we do understand that there are still many more improvements that need to be made to the system, and that these bills are the first steps toward those ends.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.