

HB 2659

HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE.

Report Title: Office of Youth Services; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates moneys to the office of youth services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB2659 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/JDL, WAM

Introducer(s): CARROLL, AQUINO, ICHIYAMA, JORDAN, KOBAYASHI, MCKELVEY, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, OSHIRO, TOKIOKA, YAMASHITA



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to
The Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

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

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2659, House Draft 1, Relating to Juvenile Justice.

Purpose: Appropriates moneys to the office of youth services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation. Effective July 1, 2050. (H.D.1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports passage of this bill appropriating funds to the Department of Human Services/Office of Youth Services to contract for mental health, substance abuse, and other practices in aid of reducing recidivism for youth on probation.

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



House Bill No. 2659, House Draft 1, Relating to Juvenile Justice
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
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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 (11).
- Recommendation 2: Reinvest the Savings in Local Alternatives (11).
- Recommendation 3: Provide Funding for Critical Treatment and Services in Communities (12).
- Recommendation 4: Refocus Efforts on Substance Abuse Needs (12).
- Recommendation 17: Create Graduated Sanctions and Incentives for Probated Youth (16).
- Recommendation 18: Invest in Proven Practices to Reduce Reoffending (16-17).

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



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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



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Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
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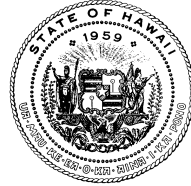
system suffer from substance abuse. Abuse, dependence, and addictions are serious challenges for Hawaii, and if left untreated in our juvenile populations, it could lead to joblessness, homelessness, increasing rates of delinquency and criminality, and additional prison beds. These outcomes could create 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).

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. 2659, House Draft 1.

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



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

HB2659, HD1, Relating to Juvenile Justice

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

March 18, 2014, 10:00 A.M., Room 016

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.

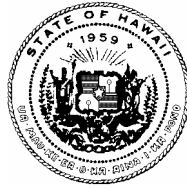
3 **Fiscal Implications:** Amount of fiscal impact unknown.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure appropriates funds to the office of youth services to contract
5 for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and practices proven to reduce recidivism among
6 court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2659, H.D.1 - RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 18, 2014; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Office of Youth Services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports H.B. 2659, H.D. 1, which will provide funding for system changes recommended by the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Working Group. One of the recommendations of the Working Group which tasked to make policy recommendations that will move Hawai'i toward a more effective, equitable and efficient juvenile justice system, was to reduce the State's use of secure beds for lower-level juvenile offenders while still protecting public safety and increasing positive outcomes.

The funding requested in this bill is intended to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-based practices and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. Many at risk or offending youth suffer from very serious substance abuse or mental health issues, and that need far outpaces availability for these critical treatments.

In conjunction with this bill, H.B. 2490 includes the system changes proposed by the Working Group that will improve our juvenile justice by enhancing services at the “front end” of our juvenile justice system and thereby reducing recidivism.

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



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

March 17, 2014

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2659, HD 1 – Relating to Juvenile Justice

Hearing: Tuesday, March 18, 2014; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2659, HD 1 is to appropriate funds to the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS strongly supports H.B. 2659, HD 1. On December 13, 2013, 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. Specifically, the Working Group wrote:

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 youth-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.

The fiscal implications of this bill are contingent on the funding allocated by the Legislature. To illustrate the costs associated with providing the necessary services for our troubled youth at the “front end”, which would serve to divert youth from involvement in the adult justice system and could deter a lifetime of involvement in our state’s array of social services the following is noted: Specifically,

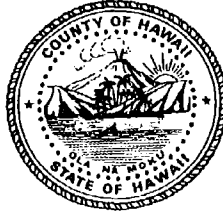
- the cost to serve 50 high-need youth through an array of evidence-based mental health and/or substance abuse treatments (e.g. multi-systemic therapy, residential substance abuse treatment, functional family therapy, outpatient substance abuse treatment) would be approximately \$700,000.
- the cost to serve 50 moderate-risk youth through an array of proven juvenile justice practices (e.g. aggression replacement training, restorative justice circles, redirection therapy groups) would be approximately \$300,000.

Through this bill we are confident that our state can make both significant and long overdue strides in the field of juvenile justice by enhancing services following a youth’s initial contact with our state’s juvenile justice system and thereby reducing recidivism and improving the lives of our youth and their families.

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 2659 HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 18, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chairs Oakland and Hee, Vice Chairs Hee and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 2659 HD1.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys to the Office of Youth Services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation

Addressing the immediate needs of our youth is crucial in ensuring a future society of productive and mindful adults. Early and effective treatment of court-involved youth, as well as youth placed on probation, reduces the likelihood of recidivism. This bill will go a long way in helping them reach their fullest potential.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 2659 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

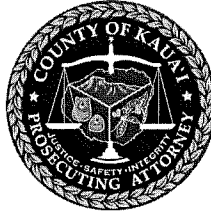
Respectfully,

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, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766

808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
H.B. NO. 2659, HD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney
County of Kauai

Senate Committees on Human Services and Judiciary and Labor

Tuesday, March 18, 2014
10:00 a.m., Room 016

Honorable Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice-Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, and
Committee Members:

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kauai submits the following
testimony in **support** of H.B. 2659, HD1, Relating to Juvenile Justice.

As grounds therefore, we cite to the reasons provided in the testimony of David
Hipp from the Office of Youth Services, dated February 20, 2014.

For these reasons, we **support** H.B. 2659, HD1, as written. We ask the
Committees to **pass** the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this
matter.

Respectfully,

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

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney
County of Kaua'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. MCCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RA-YZ

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Chun Oakland and Hee and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2659, H.D. 1, Relating to Juvenile Justice

I am Raymond Ancheta, Major of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2659, H.D. 1, which appropriates funds to the Office of Youth Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through mental health, substance abuse treatment, and other practices.

The HPD recognizes that the early and effective treatment of court-involved youth as well as youth placed on probation reduces the likelihood of reoffending.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2659, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Ancheta", written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Ancheta, Major
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa", written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

Phone/email: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 18,, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Room 016

SUPPORT FOR HB 2659 HD1 - FUNDING OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Hee, Vice Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees!

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 2659 HD1 appropriates moneys to the office of youth services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation. Effective July 1, 2050.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in support of this measure. Addressing the immediate needs of our youth is crucial. Judge Browning of the First Circuit's Family Court has said that 5,000 youth come before the court each year and 80% have substance abuse issues and 60% have mental health issues.

It costs almost \$200,000 a year to incarcerate a youth when most could be served by a network of community programs that would directly address their pathways to crime. This bill would help our youth, save money and make a significant investment in Hawai`i's future!

Please support funding for our youth so that they can reach their fullest potential.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB2659 HD1 RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

- Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
- Conference Room 016

HSAC Supports HB2659 HD1:

Good Morning Chairs Chun Oakland and Hee; Vice Chairs Green and Shimabukuro; and Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than twenty treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition strongly supports implementation of the recommendations of the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Working Group to strengthen Hawaii's juvenile justice system by providing additional community resources for evidence-based substance abuse and mental health treatment.

- Substance abuse, family dysfunction, and trauma are frequently the underlying causes of juvenile arrests.
- It is estimated that eighty percent of all youth involved in the Hawaii juvenile justice system suffer from substance abuse problems.
- The number of community-based treatment options for juveniles are currently inadequate and need to be increased statewide.
- Hawaii's substance abuse treatment programs use evidence-based practices to obtain measurable outcomes.
- Every dollar spent for substance abuse treatment for juveniles saves more than ten dollars as measured via reduced cost of homelessness, delinquency and criminality, and prison beds.

HSAC supports the availability of increased resources for substance abuse and mental health treatment for juvenile offenders. Through increased community treatment options, juvenile offenders can be redirected into healthy and productive activities resulting in reduced recidivism.

Passage of House Bill 2659 HD1 will help to enhance the efficiency of Hawaii's juvenile justice system and directly benefit juvenile offenders and their families.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony.

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 12, 2014

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony in Support of HB 2659 HD 1 Relating to Juvenile Justice

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2659 HD 1 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.

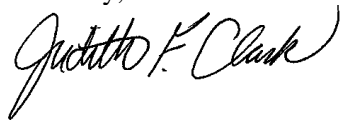
Many young people who commit crimes are in need of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. If they receive appropriate therapy and supports, they are unlikely to engage in further criminal behavior. Instead they can become contributing members of our community.

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 when he encountered the juvenile justice system, 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

**To the Joint Committees on
Human Services & Judiciary and Labor**

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Time: 10:00am

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2659 HD1 Relating to Juvenile Justice

To the Honorable Chair Oakland and Chair Hee, Vice Chair Green and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Laurie Takeno and as a community resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2659 HD1** related to Juvenile Justice.

I understand **HB2659 HD 1** is intended to appropriate funds to the Office of Youth Services to contract for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and practices proven to reduce the likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth or youth placed on probation. I am strong support of this bill because I have seen too many youth go through our juvenile justice system without the proper care and treatment they need to get on their feet and grow into healthy, responsible, and civic-minded adults. Our system of punishment without proper mental health treatment is costly and ineffective in both the short- and long-term.

Statistics show that many of the offenses committed by youth in Hawaii are non-violent (e.g., running away from home, truancy, drinking, and minor property damage/theft). I think all of us can relate to having been given second, third, and more chances when we've made mistakes, particularly as minors. Many of us have been spared the consequences of our actions because we had family or other support to fall back on. The majority of young people in the juvenile justice system lack this type of support (to no fault of their own, but as a result of choices other adults in their lives made that impacted them), and separates their paths from our own.

HB 2659 HD1 will ultimately create a space where many of these youth can finally encounter the kind of support they need to transform the trajectory of their lives. The best-practices utilized by the Office of Youth services will not only benefit the lives of our troubled youth, but will also provide a return on investment. Youth who are on the trajectory to adult prison can become contributing citizens and role models to other youth in need of someone who can empathize with and inspire them to make choices for the better.

For these reasons, I urge you to please **SUPPORT HB 2659 HD1**.

Sincerely,
Laurie Takeno
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