



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

February 19, 2014

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2211, SD1 Relating to Youth

Hearing: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

PURPOSE: The purpose of SB 2211, SD1 is to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can access safety and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program and provide immunity from liability to safe places providers and other related service providers. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports SB 2211, SD1 Relating to Youth, however, we recommend a change in the definition of "young adult". Under SB 2211, SD1 a young adult is defined as a person less than twenty-one years of age. We suggest a clarification in defining "young adult" to mean a person between the ages of 18 years and 20 years old.

SB 2211, SD1 provides provider immunity from any civil or criminal liability to provide services to a minor. State law establishes insurance requirements making any vendor or contractor liable for any damage(s) caused by their negligence. The amounts and types of insurance requirements are set forth by the state. Therefore, we recommend removal of provider's immunity from civil or criminal liability.

SB 2211, SD1 also provides for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through the system in order to engage in needed services through outreach and

advocacy. In addition, the OYS funds 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. SB 2211, SD1 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
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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
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EPIC, Inc.
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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
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Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
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Parents and Children Together (PACT)
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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 18, 2014

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2211 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 2211 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol in October. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012 and 2013, indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address such issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble and avoid unnecessary arrests for status offenses.

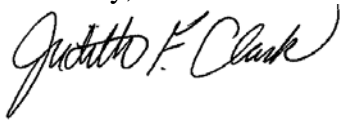
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling man them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2211: RELATING TO YOUTH

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair; and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Jenny Lee, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Partners In Care

Hearing: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of Senate Bill 2211, creating a five-year safe places for youth pilot program. This program would establish a network of safe places where youth can ask for help and access the services and support that they need. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am an Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness.

Through a safe places program, Hawai'i's youth facing crisis situations would have a place to turn for immediate help and safety at any hour. Partners In Care supports the creation of a network of safe places as a means to prevent youth homelessness. Service providers who work with unaccompanied and homeless young people have indicated that such a program could help ensure youth are connected with effective services before they run away and become homeless.

Many youth run away due to family problems such as abuse, neglect, or an inability to cope with a family member's substance use or mental illness. Children may also be pushed out of their home due to conflict or their family's inability to provide or care for them. Others may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, mental illness, or substance use disorders. A safe places program would target these vulnerable young people and help provide them and their families with appropriate services and follow-up support.

Without appropriate intervention, a runaway youth is at serious risk of homelessness. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 8 and 10 will run away at some point. Studies have also shown that youth ages 12 to 17 are at greater risk of homelessness than adults. Once a youth has become homeless, the consequences can be devastating and long-lasting. Homeless youth are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior and are at greater risk of mental health struggles, including severe anxiety, depression, and suicide. Some turn to selling drugs or prostitution just to survive. They also face substantial barriers to continuing their education: three-quarters of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school. These sad consequences can have a lifelong impact that may never be fully overcome.

PIC believes that a safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness. Again, thank you for providing Partners In Care the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2211.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211

Testimony in Support of SB2211 SD1, Relating to Youth

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB2211 SD1**, which would establish a Safe Places for Youth pilot program. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Half of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for status offences, such as running away, truancy from school, or curfew violations. Without appropriate interventions or a safe plan to turn in times of crisis, many runaway youth find themselves at serious risk of homelessness. SB2211 SD1 will establish a network of safe places where youth in crisis can request help, and access the necessary supports and services they need to address their concerns and prevent involvement with the criminal justice system.

A safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness in Hawaii. In addition, the proposed Safe Places for Youth program is truly a collaborative community effort, which involves service providers, local businesses, as well as local law enforcement.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support of this bill and appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to this issue.

**COMMENTS BY ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN OPPOSITION TO Section 2 (h) of S.B.
NO. 2211, SD 1**

February 18, 2014

To: Chairman David Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

HAJ is not opposed to the concept of developing a program to provide safe places for youth. However, HAJ is opposed to the provision in Section 2 (h) on page 7, lines 8-15 which begins by providing that “(h) Providers shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability based on the provider’s determination to provide services to a minor...” and **requests that this section of the bill be deleted.**

This section of the bill states that all providers who may provide services to the youth in these safe places are to be immune from liability for negligent acts. While the primary purpose behind this act is compelling, well intended, and to be applauded, the means by which this bill attempts to support the perceived safety of children in their own homes and/or at their schools creates various issues. This bill then, after obtaining youthful consent, shelters those serving these vulnerable youth from accountability for the serving actors’ negligence. The fact that these providers have liability insurance does not matter if they are immune from civil and criminal liability.

Lastly, these providers may be professionals, lay persons, and others who are “related service providers”. The scope of the immunity for negligent acts is too broad and does not protect the youth who may want to access these safe places and have access to professional advice. HAJ feels that this is not in the best interest of these youth and is not good public policy. **HAJ requests that at least this portion of the bill be deleted.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

TESTIMONY ON SB 2211 RELATING TO YOUTH
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 20, 2014

9:00 am

Conference Rm. 211

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. My name is Stephen Morse and I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change. I am providing comments relating to **SB 2211 Relating to Youth**, particularly as it relates to the establishment of a coordinator position as well as the implementation of a pilot program where youth have access to various support services, resources, guidance, and advice where as they otherwise would not have anywhere to go and no one to turn to in times of crisis.

Providing these types of intervention services and resources were identified as a priority by Hawai'i's youth in both the 2012 and 2013 Children & Youth Summit sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus. After the Summits, the Keiki Caucus formed the Safehouse Working Group to explore alternatives to establishing a safehouse for youth system in Hawaii. The Working Group found that many of the needed safehouse services are already being provided by existing social service organizations, but there was a need to better coordinate a safehouse continuum of services and find better ways to communicate available safehouse resources to children and youth. Of major importance to working group members was the concern expressed that youth who run away from abusive home or school environments are often afraid to seek help for fear of being arrested; and that therefore, there is a need to de-criminalize the efforts by youth to seek help.

Of special concern to us should be the need for a coordinated safehouse system in remote, rural areas of the State where youth are often underserved. In January of 2012, the Director of our Neighborhood Place of Puna reported that a young, 7th grade girl began dropping into the office, located directly across the street from Pahoia School, sporadically over a period of 2 months. After 2 months, she began coming every day and often during school hours. It turns out that besides having a poor home environment, the girl was being bullied at school. NP staff believed the bullying was the result of the girl's ambiguity about her sexual identity. Eventually, NP staff was able to work with Pahoia School counselors to get the girl additional services she needed, but it was a difficult process because of the lack of services in lower Puna.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments this morning.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2211 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:43:28 AM

SB2211

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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hale `opio kaula`i, inc.

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February 18, 2014

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2211 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hale `Opio Kaula`i, Inc., chartered on Kaula`i in 1975 to develop Kaula`i's youth as contributing members of the community, supports SB 2211 Relating to Youth.

Youth attending the Children and Youth Summit voted for a network of safe places as their top priority for legislative action in both 2012 and 2013. Senator Chun Oakland established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group of some 120 individuals that met regularly to develop a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services.

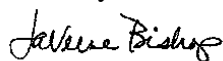
The Safe Place Network will link together existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address issues such as peer pressure, dating violence, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. Young people will have ready access to help dealing with problems before they get into trouble.

While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will provide access to services for youth and families attempting to resolve problems before they become unmanageable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Safe Places for Youth.

Sincerely,



LaVerne Bishop
Executive Director



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 2211, SD1

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) writes in support of S.B. 2211, SD1, which seeks to create a safe places for youth pilot program. PPHI is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy and we believe that a safe places program will have a positive impact on the health of our young people. This program will coordinate a network of local places where youth can safely access advice, guidance, programs and services. The proposed network is based on a National Safe Place model in which community businesses, such as a nearby store, are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency.

The Safe Places program will allow young people the opportunity to deal with issues like peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect and substance abuse in an easily accessible, safe, and confidential environment. Safe places will give young people the opportunity to obtain the best information and tools that they need to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

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