

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

SB2449, Relating to Project Kealahou

Testimony of Lynn Fallin
Deputy Director of Behavioral Health

February 19, 2014, 9:14 a.m.

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

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$166,701

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to ensure the continuation of Project
5 Kealahou (“new pathways” in Hawaiian), a six-year federally-funded grant. The funding will allow the
6 project to continue its mission to provide girls with a community-based, individualized, culturally and
7 linguistically competent, family-driven, youth-guided, and evidence based services as federal funding
8 incrementally steps down.

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

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

5 Over the past 3 years, 150 girls have been served. Data collected to date indicate that the
6 program is effective at engaging youth, improving girls' functioning and at reducing the strain felt by
7 their parents. Without additional funding, some of the clinical services will be reduced. Continuing the
8 full program will mean continuing to serve all the families and obtaining more information about what is
9 effective with girls in the targeted population.

10 Currently Project Kealahou is funded through a federal grant. As we near the end of the grant,
11 the amount of the grant has been incrementally reduced and will fully expire in 2016. To continue
12 working with the target population of traumatized girls, we are requesting that Project Kealahou
13 maintain its full staffing complement in the next year. Without additional funds, we will need to let go of
14 three experienced Intensive Support Workers. The personnel costs for maintaining the three positions
15 are \$216,701 (base salary of \$45,000 each, 42.04% fringe, and 13.01% indirect cost). The Executive
16 Budget Request to the 2014 Legislature for the Department of Health requests a \$50,000 appropriation
17 to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (HTH 460) for Project Kealahou. With the
18 Governor's \$50,000 budget request, \$166,701 is necessary to keep the three Intensive Support Workers
19 in our communities working with girls with trauma.

20 We appreciate and thank the Women's Legislative Caucus for championing this important
21 program. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

By

R. Mark Browning

Deputy Chief Judge, Senior Family Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2449, Relating to Project Kealahou.

Purpose: Appropriates monies for the continued funding of Project Kealahou, within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health division of the Department of Health.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary submits these written comments in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2449, which will enable Project Kealahou to continue operating after a six year appropriation of federal funds ends this year.

Several years ago, when the family court began researching the need for a Girls Court, two primary findings became clear early in our research: (1) nearly all of the girls in the court system, regardless of age, had suffered major trauma and were exhibiting acting out behaviors in an effort to cope with the past trauma and (2) the juvenile justice system, developed in response to boys' misbehaviors, had very little expertise when it came to dealing with girls.

Project Kealahou has and continues to address these two findings. The program has and continues to provide valuable services to girls who have suffered from child abuse/neglect, bullying, domestic violence, date rape, exploitation by older men in the sex trade, and human



Senate Bill No. 2449, Relating to Project Kealahou
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 9:15 a.m.
Page 2

trafficking. Project Kealahou provides a spectrum of services including specialized therapy as well as in-community, holistic strategies such as mentoring and peer support. Of equal importance to their direct service delivery, Project Kealahou has also begun very important steps to share their hard earned expertise by writing curriculum for professional training and have begun plans to offer this training to other service providers.

Project Kealahou is an important partner to the family court. Failure to fund its continuation will result in the loss of crucial expertise and will deprive critical services to our most vulnerable youth. Such loss will result in human and economic losses for the youth and our community. We respectfully request passage of this bill with an approved appropriation amount and that the funding become effective in the state's next fiscal year.

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

February 16, 2014

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

Testimony in Support of SB 2449 Relating to Project Kealahou

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2449 Relating to Project Kealahou.

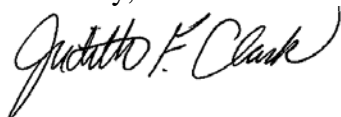
Project Kealahou provides mental health and family support services to girls who have experienced trauma. The program is currently funded through a federal grant that will be phased out.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kat.caphi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2449 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2014 10:50:35 AM

SB2449

Submitted on: 2/16/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Comments Only	No

Comments: We need more programs like Project Kealahou to address the needs of our girls. Please support! Great Investment!

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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FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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

HEARING: Wednesday, February 19, 2014
TIME 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211

FROM: Linda Santos, President & CEO
Family Programs Hawai'i

RE: SB 2449 - Relating to Project Kealahou

Senators Ige and Kidani,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Family Programs Hawai'i (FPH) specializes in services related to the child welfare system including training and support of Resource caregivers statewide.

FPH is in support of this bill for the continued funding of Project Kealahou because of the impact they have had on our community of resource caregivers (foster parents) and adolescents in foster care. In 2013, Project Kealahou collaborated with FPH in providing the Annual Conference for Resource Families statewide in 5 locations: Oahu, East Hawaii, West Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai. This conference educated resource caregivers about the effect trauma has on children. The training offered hands-on opportunities to learn and practice appropriate ways of responding to and dealing with children who have experienced trauma in their lives. In addition to training caregivers, Project Kealahou worked with another committee on providing a workshop for adolescent foster youths on life skills. Project Kealahou also collaborated with FPH on providing a follow-up training statewide.

The information Project Kealahou presented to the resource caregivers was invaluable in helping them understand children in their care from a framework of the trauma they experienced. This helped them be better equipped to provide quality care for the children placed in their home.

For these reasons, FPH supports the continued funding of Project Kealahou. Their continued services in our community will help families strengthen through understanding and healing.

From: [Brooke Kemsley](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB2037 HD1/SB2449
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2014 10:02:17 AM

February 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides hope and healing for Hawaii girls. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded. As a young girl growing up in Hawaii I would have benefited greatly from this program. Now, as a provider in Social Services I am very grateful we have culturally based programs such as Kealahou available for our young women and girls. I have hope that resources such as this will continue to flourish and promote healing in Hawaii so that one day the extreme need for Social Services may decrease as we move toward a state comprised of happier and healthy families.

Signed,

Brooke Kemsley

Kaneohe, HI

From: [Charlotte Kamauoha](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449
Date: Monday, February 17, 2014 7:36:28 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I strongly support this bill because this unique program provides hope and healing in a trauma-informed, gender specific way for Hawaii's girls. I want to see Project Kealahou continue, and even be expanded to provide services throughout the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Kamauoha
56-132 Huehu Place
Kahuku, HI 96731

(808) 636-5040
ckamauoha@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: maucrowe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2449 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2014 12:25:11 PM

SB2449

Submitted on: 2/16/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james crowe	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support SB2449 Project Kealahou helping juvenile females. A little bit of sincere counseling support can go a long way toward bringing them out of confusion, toward setting some immediate, clear goals.

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From: [Megan Taddonio](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449
Date: Monday, February 17, 2014 6:49:58 PM

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of the bill to provide funding for Project Kealahou. I believe it is important to provide trauma services to our young women who have experienced trauma. I have seen this program greatly improve the quality of life for girls here in Hawaii. I have seen first hand how this program has helped turn around the lives of so many girl's who were headed down a dark path. Trauma survivors are resilient, but they need the support, counseling, and hand up that Project Kealahou can provide in order to heal and become contributing members of in our communities. Please provide the funding for gender specific trauma informed programs like Project Kealahou.

Sincerely,

Megan Taddonio
Voting citizen in the Kaimuki neighborhood

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: admin@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2449 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Monday, February 17, 2014 2:09:00 PM

SB2449

Submitted on: 2/17/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Pavlicek	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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2449 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:05:52 AM

SB2449

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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