



February 19, 2014

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

Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2449– Relating to Project Kealahou – Support  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means – February 19, 2014  
Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

My name is Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of O‘ahu, testifying in support for SB 2449, to appropriate \$50,000 in funding for Project Kealahou.

Project Kealahou is a federally funded initiative that bridges juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, and education systems to bring life skills and build support for girls between ages 11 to 18 who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. The program helps adolescent girls reconnect with their land, themselves, and their families through activities such as Girls Circle, individual support and mentoring and other group activities.

We firmly believe this legislative appropriation is much needed to preserve this safety net and to connect gaps in funding that provides service to girls connected with Project Kealahou. For these reasons, we humbly urge members of this committee to pass this bill.

Since its founding in 1900, the YWCA of O‘ahu exists to cultivate opportunities for women’s and girls’ growth and leadership, to help them create fulfilling lives for themselves and their families, and facilitating social change with positive economic impact for their communities.

Sincerely,

Noriko Namiki  
CEO  
YWCA of O‘ahu

for every woman

**LATE**

Feb. 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for Hawaii's girls.

Signed, *Tabitha Rhodes-Nakahara*

Name: *Tabitha Rhodes-Nakahara*

City/Town: *Wahiawa*

**LATE**

Feb. 18, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou. This program has really helped my daughter and my family. I want these services to continue and be available for all Hawaii girls.

Signed, *Denise K. Nakahara*

Name: *Denise K. Nakahara*

City/Town: *Wahiawa*



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [chinman@my.hpu.edu](mailto:chinman@my.hpu.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2449 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:13:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony in support of Project Kealahou SB 2449.docx](#)

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**SB2449**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carly	Individual	Support	Yes

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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**From:** [Janelle Shimooka](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:56:25 PM

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Feb. 18, 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.

Signed,  
Janelle Shimooka

Pearl City, Hawaii

**From:** [Ruth](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB2037 HD1/SB2449 relating to Project Kealahou  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:50:56 AM  
**Importance:** High

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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.

Signed,

Name: Ruth LaMer

City/Town: Honolulu, Hawaii

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sherry.campagna@kamakagreen.com](mailto:sherry.campagna@kamakagreen.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2449 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:27:56 AM

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**SB2449**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Tia](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Project Kealahou  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 2:15:09 PM

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**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.**

**Girls who experience significant trauma in Hawai`i are in need of appropriate and effective services. This program not only assists girls in the healing process, but also provides much needed training and supports for service providers and families to improve emotional, behavioral, and physical health outcomes in youth who have experienced trauma.**

**Trauma occurs in many ways and unless treated, can lead to negative coping skills, poor health outcomes, and even early death. Childhood abuse, neglect, and exposure to other traumatic stressors are common. According to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study by Kaiser Permanente, the short- and long-term outcomes of these childhood exposures include a multitude of health and social problems.**

**I want to see Project Kealahou continue, and even be expanded to provide these much needed services throughout the State of Hawai`i. Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Tia L Roberts  
Resident of Kaimuki, O'ahu**





**From:** [Kim Toney](#)  
**To:** [FINTestimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of HB2037 HD1/SB2449  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:09:50 AM

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As a community member and social worker, I am a big supporter of child and family services. I would like to see Project Kealahou continue in its work helping Hawai'i ohana. There services and workers address trauma specific and gender-based issues that our young women need great support in. I hope that PK's advocacy sustains in the future.

Mahalo nui

Toney Kaipo Kim

Kaimuki resident, local citizen