

HB 2163

Measure Title: RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS.

Report Title: Youth; Mental Health; Appropriation (\$)

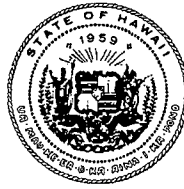
Description: Appropriates moneys to fund operational costs to provide therapeutic prevention and mental health programs for high risk youth. (HB2163 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): MIZUNO, CACHOLA, EVANS, LOPRESTI, LUKE, MORIKAWA, SAIKI, SOUKI



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

March 14, 2016

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2163 HD1, Relating to Youth Gangs**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports the intent of the measure but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget. OYS supports a balanced and multi-prong approach to strengthen and improve a community's response in addressing problems affecting a community such as youth violence, including outreach to and establishing relationships with high risk youth to help promote education, self-esteem, individual growth and development, leadership, and responsibility.

Additionally, if therapeutic prevention and mental health programs are funded, consultation with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health should occur in the development of this service array.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds for operational costs to provide therapeutic prevention and mental health programs for high risk youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



Adult Friends for Youth

3375 Koapaka Street, Suite B290 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 • (808) 833-8775 • FAX: (808) 833-6469
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Sidney M. Rosen, M.S.W., Ph.D

**Past Chair of the Board*

Submitted to
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Submitted by
Darin H. Kawazoe
Director of Program Development and Grants
Adult Friends for Youth

Subject: Support for HB 2163 HD 1, Relating to Youth Gangs

I am in full support of H.B. 2163 HD 1. Youth violence is a complex problem requiring appropriate, necessary intervention. When programs are successful, youth are provided with the necessary skills to stop violent acts and redirect their attention to a productive future. My name is Darin Kawazoe and I am the Director of Program Development and Grants for AFY. I cannot imagine what life would be like for hundreds and thousands of youth who did not or could not benefit from AFY's services. I am a survivor of youth violence.

It took time for me to recover – physically, emotionally, and mentally - from the violence I experienced in high school. It was like experiencing one of the greatest lost in life. I needed someone to advocate for me and my family; someone to reach out and address the multitude of needs of being a crime victim of violence. Like the hundreds of kids that are bullied and assaulted each day, I had a difficult time returning to school. I was not only ashamed and embarrassed, but also felt like my safety was at risk. Someone needed to pay attention to my depression, my risk of using drugs and alcohol as well as dropping out of school, and the overwhelming need to seek safety perhaps through anti-social kids.

The chances that you know a crime victim of violence are great. Violence can happen to anyone. No one should have to go through the recovery process of being a crime victim alone. What I have learned over my 30 something years of working in the 'field' is that while certainly not all victims will become offenders and not all offenders were victims, many youth are both, and many of our most vulnerable families include both. Effective programs that address youth violence and gang membership must take into account the 'entire' individual and all of his or her risks as well as needs.

The issue of youth violence is a public health issue, which demands government assistance and funding. It took time to rebuild my life and pick up the pieces after high school. I am grateful that I am resilient. But, not all the youth we work with are that way. I thank AFY for allowing me to use my own experiences for the greater good to stop violence in its tracks and help Hawaii's youth to stay in school. We need your help more than ever.

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony.



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**Past Chair of the Board*

Submitted to

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Submitted by

Mckay Schwenke
Vice President
Adult Friends for Youth

I am in strong support for HB 2163 which relates to Youth Gangs. Youth violence and youth gangs are on the rise. Over the past year there have been numerous incidences that have been reported by the media regarding youth violence around youth gang activities both on school campuses and in the communities. This Bill if passed will allow organizations to reach out to this specific population to help combat violence, crime, and destructive behaviors among youth especially those in gangs. For the past 29 years, Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) has been servicing high risk youth, by redirecting them from violent and destructive behavior to non-violent and constructive behavior through advocating and empowering them to explore other options that will lead them away from crime and prison, but toward healthy outcomes and meaningful lifestyles. The ultimate objective for all our youth is to become contributing members of their community, and society as a whole.

AFY has a professional staff who are able to comfortably outreach to violent youth groups and individuals and build relationships with them through face to face meetings, and through fun activities. Working with groups as whole entities allows members within the group to build strong group cohesion with one another, also allows members to effectively become role models for each other as they begin to experience successful outcomes - and begin to move in a positive direction. Success breeds success, and the more positive the experience, the more successful the end result will be.

Helping children and youth believe that they matter is critical for self-determination, confidence and self-respect to be appreciated. The old adage, "Prevention is better than Cure" is so true! Locking up and incarcerating our youth is not the answer. Prevention and intervention services that have the ability, experience, and knowledgeable expertise to relate to these youth, is the key to keeping them from not only hurting themselves, but others as well. AFY has built a credible reputation for over 25 years in working with this specific youth population. Their passion is evident in their work, relationship building, and the lives they have been able to impact through their success.

Once again I strongly support HB 2163 and hope that you will see the bigger picture on how this Bill will also support and promote safer schools and communities for our children and youth to prosper now, and for years to come.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

March 12, 2016

TO: **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

For Hearing on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 1:15 P.m., in Conf. Room 016

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2163 HD1**

Honorable Madame Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere, and Committee members,

The **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186** represents over 3,800 members working in electrical construction, telecommunications, and with Oceanic Time Warner. Our members include civil service employees at Pearl Harbor, Hickam, Kaneohe, and military facilities throughout Hawaii. IBEW Local 1186 also represents over 110 signatory electrical contracting companies that perform most of the electrical work in our state.

We stand in strong support of HB 2163 HD1. Over the last seven years I have been a Board Member of **Adult Friends for Youth**. AFY is a local non-profit that works with our high risk keiki who face threats from gang association, violence, bullying, and other negative social influences in their communities.

I have seen first-hand how a non-profit like Adult Friends for Youth will benefit from a bill like this. Whenever a school has a gang fight, the school Principal will call the Police, and the Police will then call AFY to help intervene. While AFY would like to react to all calls in the State, financially we just can't. **HB 2163 HD1** will not only help financially, but will help hold non-profits accountable for the use of their funds.

We have directly seen the successes of funding programs like AFY from their clients who have transitioned from troubled pasts into becoming hard-working apprentices in our IBEW training program. **We urge you to continue supporting services for our at-risk youth through legislative efforts like HB 2163 HD1. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to testify in strong support.**

Mahalo and aloha,

Damien Kim
Business Manager – Financial Secretary
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, Local Union 1186



TO: Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: March 15, 2016; 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2163, HD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS

We support the intent of HB 2163, HD1 – Relating to Youth Gangs. Gang membership in Hawaii continues to increase by the numbers, with a report in 2010 stating 129 street gangs involving 500 members across the state of Hawaii. Youth gangs have become an issue we have grown to tolerate in our culture. For troubled teens, it is a battle between peer-pressure, low self-esteem, and the unfortunate violence they have grown up witnessing. Our negligence to youth gangs would be failure to claim our duty in providing safe environments and promising futures for our keiki.

It is of crucial importance that we invest in organizations and programs that dedicate their services to bringing back the hope of a child's innocence. Parents And Children Together is just one of the many organizations who offer prevention and intervention programs to ensure healthy environments for children and families in Hawaii. It takes more than just resources alone to carry out success in this work, but the continuous support of community members and leaders who become role models for these high risk youth.

The prepositions of this bill will provide solid foundations in helping youth recognize their potential in life. No longer shall their environments create their destinies for them, and limit their capabilities of what they could achieve. It is essential that every single one of our keiki is given the chance to appreciate their youth, and inherit healthy values and mindsets. We support the passing of this bill.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2163, HD1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



**Hawai`i
International
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Assessing &
Treating Trauma
across the
Lifespan**

Linda Santos, MSW
Host Committee
Chair



Robert Geffner, PhD
President, FVSAI



**Sandi Capuano
Morrison, MA**
Executive Director,
IVAT

www.ivatcenters.org
ivat@alliant.org

March 11, 2016

TO: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
And members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Dr. Bob Geffner, President
The Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute

HEARING: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 1:15 PM, Room 016

RE: **HB 2163 HD1 Relating to Youth Gangs**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT with an AMENDMENT

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

Ho'omaluhia, the Hawaii Branch of The Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI) and The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) supports HB 2163 HD1 relating to Youth Gangs. The mission of our two nonprofit agencies is to improve the quality of life for individuals by sharing and disseminating vital information, improving collaborations and networking, conducting research and trainings, assisting with program evaluation and consultation to promote violence-free living.

I would like to offer an amendment to add the words "training, program evaluation" on page 3, line 4, after the word "provide". The new line would read "...operational costs to provide training, program evaluation, therapeutic prevention and mental health programs".

For the past 13 years, FVSAI and IVAT have been collaborating with many of the state agencies and nonprofit programs in the islands to sponsor an International Training Summit in Hawai'i on the latest research, prevention, assessment and intervention techniques concerning various aspects of trauma and maltreatment, including youth violence.

We support a multi-pronged approach to reducing youth violence and delinquency among high risk youth. We believe that early identification of adverse childhood experiences will help identify our youth who are most at risk and in need of addressing deep rooted issues, trauma, aggressive and violent behavior. Ho'omaluhia and IVAT can assist in training and providing program evaluation to any organization that provides therapeutic prevention, mental health programs, and in-school centered group counseling for high risk youth.

An appropriation today to address youth violence and delinquency will prevent a larger adult criminal population in the future. It is the route to helping the local communities in the efforts to reduce the violence and abuse that too often negatively affects our families. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2163 HD1 with an amendment.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2163 on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:39:01 PM

HB2163

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dylan Armstrong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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March 13, 2016

TO: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
And members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Linda A. Santos, MSW, ACSW, Chair
Hawai'i Host Committee, Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma

**RE: HB 2163 HD1 Relating to Youth Gangs
WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

As a retired social worker and former Director of Casey Family Programs and CEO of Family Programs Hawai'i, as well as the current Host Committee Chair for the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma Hawai'i International Training Summit, I support HB 2163 HD 1 relating to youth gangs.

The IVAT Training Summit, currently in its 13th year, provides training on the latest research, prevention, assessment, and intervention techniques concerning various aspects of trauma and maltreatment, including youth violence. The Host Committee and the Planning Committee are made up of representatives of Hawaii's public and private agencies and the Summit pays particular attention to the strengths and the needs in our state.

The multi-pronged approach to reducing youth violence and delinquency among high risk youth is very consistent with IVAT's goals. Ho'omaluhia, recently established in Hawaii and IVAT look forward to being able to provide further training and program evaluation to organizations that serve high risk youth in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2163 HD1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2163 on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:12:18 PM

HB2163

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Troy Abraham | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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