



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

February 4, 2015

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 384 – Relating to Youth Violence**

Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2015, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of HB 384 is to establish both school-centered and neighborhood-centered programs to help reduce youth violence and delinquency.

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of HB 384, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

Additionally, the OYS offers the following comments related to this bill:

- Given that the legislature finds that a multi-pronged approach should be taken to promote education, self-esteem, individual growth and development, leadership and responsibility, the array of services offered should extend beyond therapeutic prevention and mental health programs.
- If programming is limited to therapeutic prevention and mental health programs, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health should be consulted during the development of any service array.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 3:11 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB384 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM\*

**Categories:** Yellow Category

**HB384**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HUS on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

**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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**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:39 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** sherry.campagna@kamakagreen.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB384 on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM\*



**HB384**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HUS on Feb 5, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

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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**TESTIMONY****COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES****Thursday, February 5, 2015****8:30 a.m.****Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair****Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice – Chair**

**By: Dennis Arakaki for the Kalihi Community Youth Violence and Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Group.**

**Aloha Mai Keia Kakahiaka kakou, Madam Chair and members of the House Human Services Committee. I stand in strong support of HB 384.**

**As a member of the Kalihi Community Youth Violence and Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Group, I want to relay our concerns for the growing incidences of youth violence in our communities and neighborhoods. We have seen and heard reports about a proliferation of violence on school campuses, parks, housing complex', fast food establishments and almost all public places that youth gather. These fights, that some refer to as gang fights, occur quickly as young people use the latest communication devices to spread the word which allow them to gather and disperse very quickly.**

**Kalihi is a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities where many young immigrants and families get their start. The socio-economic factors that are woven throughout the community lead many young people feeling isolated and even excluded from the mainstream cultures as well as academic and economic successes. But we are told that the so called gangs are centered on territorial identities rather than ethnic similarities.**

**Kalihi is also like the canaries in the mine and the problems that face our community serve as indicators of more ominous problems we face statewide with our youth. The Task Group members recognize the importance and effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies that provide programs and activities that keep youth out of the judicial system and the costly alternatives of rehabilitation and treatment.**

A one time, the legislature developed and funded a highly successful youth gang response system but the programs and services that were provided, especially in the area of prevention and intervention have slowly lost their funding and mandate. I want to encourage our legislators to look to youth programs and services that give young people a sense of identity and belonging as a cost effective strategy to prevent youth crime and violence. Other recommendations include mobilizing the community to eradicate graffiti, provide multi-lingual information videos and pamphlets for parents and guardians to enable them to spot problems in their children and providing the referral to agencies and organizations that can help families. Another major recommendation is the need for coordination and collaboration of service providers and organizations, being able to share resources and information, especially with schools, police and the juvenile justice system.

I urge you to pass this measure and refer it to the Finance Committee with a strong recommendation for funding. Mahalo!



# LATE TESTIMONY

Darin Kawazoe <hirobuilt@gmail.com>

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## Document1

2 messages

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**Ebato** <julieandterry@hawaiiintel.net>  
To: hirobuilt@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 8:01 PM

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 **Document1.docx**  
13K

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**Darin Kawazoe** <hirobuilt@gmail.com>  
To: Ebato <julieandterry@hawaiiintel.net>

Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 8:42 PM

Testimony for HB 384

Submitted to

Committee of Human Services

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Submitted by

Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun

President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I am in full support of HB 384, which relates to youth violence and gang membership. For the past 28 years, Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) has provided therapeutic services to many of our community's highest-risk youth who are involved in gangs, violence, drugs, bullying, truancy and other problematic behavior that often leads to school failure and criminal involvement. AFY works closely with schools such as Farrington, Waipahu, Kapolei and Leilehua high schools as well as Dole and Kalakaua middle schools. Working in partnership with school administrators and faculty, AFY provides effective counseling services to reduce and eliminate destructive behaviors on these campuses in order to create violence-free, safe educational environments where students can thrive. We provide mediation services between rival gangs at schools.

AFY reaches and provides services to more than 400+ students a week, which involves individual and group counseling as well as outreach, case management, advocacy, truancy reduction, leadership

training, and mentorship on and off the school campus. Our street wise, street smart therapeutic approach works with high risk youth on their own turf and tackles difficult challenges that youth face. We work with youth gangs as whole entities. Our services are gender-specific and culturally relevant to Hawaii's diverse multi-ethnic population. We understand that peers tend to have the most influence on each other at this developmental stage in their lives. We also provide crisis services and interventions 24/7 (on an as needed basis), because we know that youth problems do not occur between 9 am - 5 pm.

AFY's cost of service is \$4,500 per youth which is much more cost effective than the \$199,000 that is paid to incarcerate a youth at Hawaii's Youth Correctional Facility. Working with the youth in their community helps them to implement skills they learn through the therapeutic counseling sessions. This effective approach helps to save taxpayers dollars.

The Juvenile Justice System has agreed that working with a youth in their environment is much more effective than incarceration and has made stride to provide services to a youth in their communities. Youth involved with gangs and violence should be given the same option.

I present this testimony to support HB 384 not only as the President and CEO of AFY but also as a clinician of AFY with over 20 years of providing direct services. This bill will give our youth an opportunity to become productive and contributing members of our society. Thank you so much for allowing AFY to testify.

On Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 8:01 PM, Ebato <julieandterry@hawaiiantel.net> wrote: