

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB 1367
Relating to Project Kealahou

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
Hearing Date: February 10, 2015 Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funding to continue direct services.

2 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this measure is to ensure the continuation of Project
3 Kealahou (“new pathways” in Hawaiian), whose federal funding ends in October, 2015. The
4 Department of Health takes no position on the appropriations request in SB 1367, deferring to
5 the Governor’s Executive Budget request for fiscal priorities.

6 Project Kealahou has been grant-funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
7 Administration (SAMHSA) since 2009 and has proven its cost effectiveness, as described below.
8 The SAMHSA grant will expire in October 2015.

9 Over the past 5 years, over 300 girls have been referred for services. An extensive
10 evaluation of the project shows that the program is effective at engaging youth, improving girls’
11 functioning and at reducing the strain felt by their parents.

12 Housed within The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of
13 Health, Project Kealahou was developed in response to broad recognition among leaders and

1 workers in Hawaii’s public child-serving system that established treatment programs do not
2 adequately address challenges encountered by adolescent girls.

3 Project Kealahou emphasizes gender-responsive and trauma-informed care when
4 serving its target audience of adolescent females age eleven through twenty-one who have
5 experienced significant trauma in their lives. Project Kealahou offers an array of community-
6 based services and supports that provide cost-effective deterrents and alternatives to more
7 expensive and disruptive out-of-home placements for youth and a range of cultural and
8 recreational community-based group activities to help youth and their families.

9 We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

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The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

By

R. Mark Browning

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1367, 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 this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 1367 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



Senate Bill No. 1367, Relating to Project Kealahou
Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
Page 2

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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jclark@hysn.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1367 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 1:07:01 PM

SB1367

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSH on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Clark	Hawaii Youth Services Network	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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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
707 Richards Street, Suite 525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 9, 2015

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

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 1367 – RELATING TO PROJECT KEALAHOU

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1367 is to appropriate funds for the continued funding of Project Kealahou within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health.

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports S.B. 1367, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

Project Kealahou offers critical services to girls who have suffered from trauma – trauma that may be the result of a myriad of factors: child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, and date rape to identify only a few of the horrific events these victimized girls may have experienced.

The service array offered by Project Kealahou ranges from in-community, culturally based, holistic strategies such as mentoring and peer support to specialized therapy. Project Kealahou has also been in a leader in the provision of trauma-informed care training for other agencies and service providers.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland

The Honorable Josh Green

February 9, 2015

Page 2

It is tragic that we have adolescent girls who at such a young age have experienced trauma in their lives, and these girls subsequently require interventions unique to their presenting needs – and Project Kealahou offers such interventions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

SUPPORT for SB 1367 - PROJECT KEALAHOU

Aloha Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that more than 1,600, and soon to be rising number of Hawai'i individuals who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 1367 appropriates funds for the continued funding of Project Kealahou within the Department of Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this important measure for our girls. There are just not enough community programs that address the needs of our young women. We need programs like Project Kealahou to address the many issues facing our young women today in a holistic way using the principles of trauma-informed care to guide their practices.

Please support our future women leaders!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1367 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:53:11 PM

SB1367

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Pavlicek	Hawaii Public Policy Advocates	Support	No

Comments: Project Kealahou is an extremely important and effective program in the state Department of Health to assist girls who have been the victims of trauma. Project Kealahou's work is grounded in the community, providing direct services for girls, trainings for providers & families and support for other organizations. Providing minimal additional state funding, the program will be able to continue to access federal funding. Please support this valuable program.

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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I am writing to support Project Kealahou. I am President and CEO of EPIC `Ohana, a non-profit organization that serves families and children in the child welfare system. Our youth organization HI HOPES, is made up of foster youth and former foster youth, and advocates for their foster brothers and sisters. I served on the Project Kealahou governing council when it began. Project Kealahou is a powerful combination of treatment, outreach, leadership, and authentic youth and parent engagement. It should be strengthened and replicated, and it most certainly should be supported. Young people who have experienced trauma are likely to have negative outcomes without good treatment. Project Kealahou can make a meaningful difference for young people throughout the state if it is supported and expanded.

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

Signed

Allen Aludino
Name: Allen ALUDINO Juvenile Detention Offices
C/O Detention Services Branch
287 Kamokila Boulevard
City/Town: Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

Signed, *Linda J. Wood*

Name: *LINDA V. WOOD, Juvenile Detention Officer (JDO)*

*c/o Judiciary, Detention Services Branch
287 Kāmokila Blvd.*

City/Town:

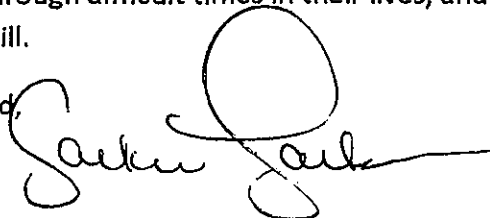
Kapolei, HI. 96707

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367 relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in their lives, and truly begin to heal and find hope again. Please pass this bill.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the top.

Name: Jackie Jackson

City/Town: 46-257 Haiku Road, Kaneohe

Monday February 9, 2015

Williams Falevai MSW, CSAC
Program Manager
Hale o Ho'oulu a me Maui'ola
(House of Healing and Growth)
A Bobby Benson Center Program
P.O. Box 873
Kahuku, HI 96731

To Whom It May Concern:

Aloha Kakou, I am writing this letter to show my support of HB1435 & SB1367 relating to Project Kealahou. Our program works with many young men and women from the Windward side of the island that have substance abuse issues, mental health issues, behavioral issues, etc. We recognize the high prevalence of trauma that our young people have gone through or are continuing to go through, especially our young women. Many of them have been physically, verbally and sexually abused, yet we don't have any program specific for girls. Our program is located in Kahuku, on the North side of Oahu. We serve youth from ages 13-17 years old that live within the Ko'olauloa area (Waimea through Ka'a'awa). Our area of the island is known as a Federally Mental Health Underserved Area and a Federally Medically Underserved Area. The more specified programs we have on the Northshore of Oahu, the better the chance of our young women can get the help they need. Project Kealahou is one of those programs that were created specifically for the girls and young women of Hawaii to help them address and work through their trauma. Trauma affects every aspect of the person's life and can even change a person's brain functioning. Project Kealahou has worked and continues to work with our young women that have experienced a traumatic response(s) to an event in their lives and some of them have been able to return back to a normal life. Gender-specific services are vital to the healing and growth of our young women because their issues are different than that of young men and boys. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their specific needs. Please pass this bill to continue to allow Project Kealahou to help Hawaii's young women and girls deal with their trauma. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Williams Falevai MSW, CSAC'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Williams' being the most prominent part.

Name: Williams Falevai MSW, CSAC

City/Town: Kahuku, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. This trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes a tremendous difference in the treatment and healing of girls who have histories of trauma. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families and I would like to see it continue and even be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

As an evaluator of the adult counterpart of Project Kealahou, which serves the population of the Adult Mental Health Division, I have seen the adverse effects of childhood trauma in adults. Too often these effects are intergenerational. Project Kealahou identifies and provides the support and services these at-risk female adolescents with trauma histories need to help them cope more effectively and to move forward in their recovery. This early intervention will hopefully help break the intergenerational cycle of person-on-person trauma and neglect.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Project Kealahou.

Steven Y.C. Wong

Steven Y. C. Wong, PhD
Grant Evaluation Specialist
Trauma-Informed Care Initiative
Adult Mental Health Division
Hawaii Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street, Suite 257
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Sekowski', written over a horizontal line.

Name: Dorothy Sekowski

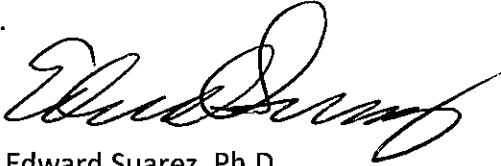
City/Town: Honolulu, HI

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in their lives, and truly begin to heal and find hope again. Please pass this bill.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Suarez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "E".

Name: Edward Suarez, Ph.D.

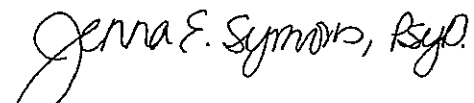
City/Town: Honolulu

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. I have been fortunate enough to participate in Project Kealahou sponsored trainings and have learned important new treatments for providing trauma-informed care to the youth I work with. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenna E. Symons, Psy.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Name: Jenna Symons, Psy.D.

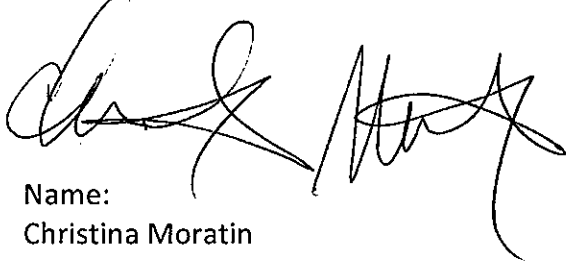
City/Town: Kailua

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Moratin', written over a horizontal line.

Name:

Christina Moratin

City/Town:

Honolulu



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
Kauai Family Guidance Center
3-3204 Kuhio Hwy #104
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
(808) 274-3883 / fax (808) 274-3889

Feb. 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a board certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been a critical resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families in Hawai'i and beyond.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chita Granda".

Name: Chita Granda, MD

City/Town: Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed, *Lori J. Coleman*

Name: Lori J. Coleman
918 Husten Street, Apt. H
Honolulu, HI 96826

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed, 

Name:

Rachael Gray

City/Town:

Honolulu, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help the young women of Hawaii heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,


Name:

Kathleen McGeehan

City/Town:

Honolulu HI

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Lamer", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Name:

Ruth Lamer

City/Town:

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

Signed, *Janelle Starmer*

Name:

Janelle Starmer


City/Town:

Peah City

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,  Bert, Hartsack

Name:

City/Town: Honolulu, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in supporting the Bobby Benson Center in implementing as well as training our staff on trauma informed approaches in further helping our clients and their families heal from not only trauma but also in relation to their substance abuse. I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and potentially beyond, as we serve girls from outer islands and see how they benefit from the services Project Kealahou provides while they are in our care.

Signed,



Name: Ashley Wiberg, LCSW
Clinical Director, Bobby Benson Center

City/Town: Kahuku, HI

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of boys/girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond. I have also been able to participate in the trainings they have provided and it has benefited the youth that we all serve at the Bobby Benson Center. Please take the time to consider this bill.

Signed,

Name: KERRY S. MOEA'I M.S.W.

City/Town: KAHUKU, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

Signed,

Name:


Jovan Malufau

City/Town:

Kahuku, HI 96731

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Nagamine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "N".

Name: Jan Nagamine

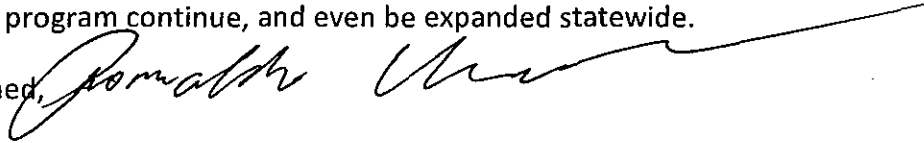
City/Town: Kaneohe

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romualdo Urbina", written over a horizontal line.

Name:

Romualdo Urbina

City/Town:

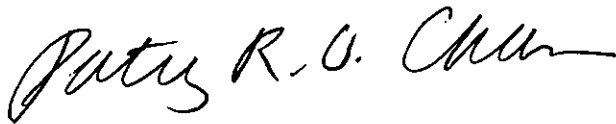
Honolulu, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patsy R. O. Chun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Name: Patsy R. O. Chun
Waimanalo HI 96795

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1367 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 3:36:26 PM

SB1367

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: As a former member of the Project Kealahou governance board, I strongly support the continued funding of this important program.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1367 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 2:06:41 PM

SB1367

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: haleysaba@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1367 on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:54:58 PM

SB1367

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 10, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Project Kealahou is an extremely important and effective program in the state Department of Health to assist girls who have been the victims of trauma. Project Kealahou's work is grounded in the community, providing direct services for girls, trainings for providers & families and support for other organizations. Providing minimal additional state funding, the program will be able to continue to access federal funding. Please support this valuable program.

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February 8, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367. Project Kealahou provides important services to at-risk juvenile girls who have experienced traumatic experiences. Girls in the system who have been traumatized need gender-responsive services to address their unique pathways into the system, and the damage done by traumatizing experiences that often include sexual and/or physical abuse, often at the hands of someone they know. We know that, left untreated, this trauma will often lead to self-medicating behavior such as alcohol and drug use as well as entrée into risky and unhealthy relationships. Too, it is all too common for girls with untreated trauma to end up in the adult criminal justice system where it may take them years to break the cycle of unwanted behavior. Gender-responsive treatment for girls works and positively contributes to public safety. Please make the sensible choice and support Project Kealahou via HB1435/SB1367.

Dr. Janet T. Davidson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,

Name:

City/Town:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

TESTIMONY ON SB 1367

RELATING TO PROJECT KEALAHOU

JOINT HEARING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH (HTH) AND HUMAN SERVICES (HSH)

ON FEBRUARY 10, 2015, AT 1:30 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM 016

TO:

- CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SENATOR JOSH GREEN
- VICE CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SENATOR GLENN WAKAI
- CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND
- VICE CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES SENATOR JOSH GREEN

TESTIMONY:

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland and Chairman Josh Green, Vice Chairs, and Senators. My name is Josephine Chang and I am testifying in favor of SB 1367 that would provide state appropriations to continue the programs and services of Project Kealahou, currently housed in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division in the state's department of Health. As a community resource and educator on services for sexual minority youth, I have found that Project Kealahou fills a gap in youth services and also fills a need for training of the broader community on the effects of trauma and its relationship to the struggles of youth that are largely served by state and state funded services. They are working to not only alleviate the struggles of these youth, but to achieve positive and lasting outcomes, and to lessen the burden on state services. The director and staff are dedicated and committed to this program and are making a difference. I ask for your support in providing the funding need to continue the current program and also to extend it to the rest of the state.

Mahalo,

Josephine Leilani Chang

Lesley A. Slavin, Ph.D.
317C Olomana Street
Kailua, HI 96734
[*lalikipaulo@yahoo.com*](mailto:lalikipaulo@yahoo.com)

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

SB 1367, Relating to Project Kealahou

I am grateful for this opportunity to address the committee about Project Kealahou (PK). This is an exciting, innovative mental health intervention for a very vulnerable and commonly underserved population – Adolescent girls who have been exposed to significant trauma including abuse, neglect, and sexual assault. These are the girls who frequently run away from home, who may develop serious behavior problems such as suicide attempts and self-harm, and who sometimes end up living on the streets, being victimized by sex traffickers and so on. Frequently, these girls are detained in the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) on minor charges because of the perceived lack of other options to keep them safe. Standard intervention programs in mental health and juvenile justice historically have not been adequate to meet their specialized needs.

Project Kealahou is a 6-year project funded by a grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) with some required state matching funds. Funding available in this grant program ranges from one million dollars in the first and last years to two million dollars in the middle two years of the grant. Funding for FY15 (the final grant year) is 1.0 million dollars. Thanks to an appropriation from last year's legislature, PK has been able to continue serving girls on Oahu as the federal funds have dwindled. We are very grateful for this show of support!

Project Kealahou includes a major evaluation component, and it is part of a national evaluation being conducted by SAMHSA. Preliminary results on the first sample of youth followed by the evaluation suggest PK is showing a lot of success. Girls have shown significant increases in competence, significant decreases in school absences and significant decreases in impairment. Their parents or other caregivers also have shown significant decreases in their level of strain. Anecdotally, we know that some of girls who were chronic "runners" have stopped running and are much safer.

Because of these initial excellent outcomes, the staff and volunteers involved in PK are committed to sustaining the major components of Project Kealahou and assuring that girls in Hawaii have access to the kind of supports it provides. Some of the promising practices include: mentoring by a single worker who stays with the girl from intake throughout the program; the use of peer specialists – young adults who have received mental health services in the past – to provide support to the girls; family and youth cultural activities; evidence-based trauma treatment; and Girls Circle groups held in community settings.

In addition to providing services to girls and their families, the project has done extensive inter-agency collaborative work with colleagues in the Office of Youth Services, the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), Girl's Court and Probation around girls involved in the Juvenile Justice System. This has led to an emerging consensus that the gender-informed approaches used by Project Kealahou are "best practices" that should be instituted statewide.

The proposed legislation is designed to spread these mental health services to all the girls who need them in our state. Doing this would build on the six years of effort by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and the millions of taxpayer dollars that have been invested in learning what works with high-risk girls. I urge you to continue to fund this vital effort by passing this bill.

February 9, 2015

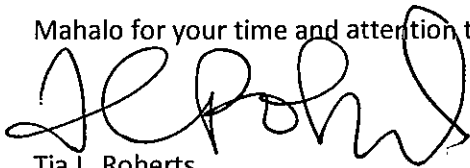
Members of the Committee on Health,

I humbly ask you and your colleagues to pass SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. Please support programming for adolescent girls and continue funding for this much needed program. As a service provider for over 15 years, I have seen the impact trauma has on our youth and families in Hawaii. An overwhelming amount of youth in the juvenile justice system, child welfare system, and mental health systems have experienced trauma.

Project Kealahou has spent the past 5 years implementing trauma-informed, gender-specific, evidence-based interventions that have helped our girls, those who identify as girls, and their families work towards healing. They have been able to train providers, families and state/federal agencies statewide on implementing evidence-based curriculums, and address the trauma the often gets ignored.

I also support funding to allow this program to provide services across Hawaii. They currently only provide programming on Oahu, but there is such a huge need for these types of services on all islands.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this request. Please pass SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tia L. Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Tia L. Roberts
Kaimuki, Hawaii

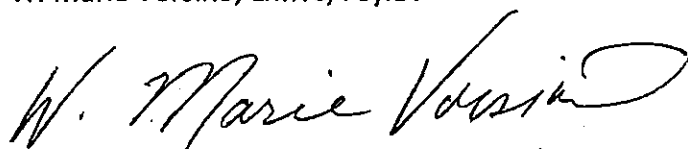
Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. I have attended trainings and symposiums provided by the project, and have found them tremendously helpful in my work with the youth at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. I was also provided the opportunity to be trained in the Girl's Circle Modality as a facilitator and currently provide that curriculum to the females at the correctional facility. This training was made possible by Project Kealahou. Without these trainings, the services provided to female youth would not be trauma informed or more gender specific which is essential to the treatment that adolescent traumatized females receive. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

Sincerely and with greatest appreciation,

W. Marie Vorsino, LMHC, Psy.D.



Clinical Psychologist, FCLB

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division

4614 Kalaniiki Place

Honolulu, HI 96821

Monday February 9, 2015

Williams Falevai MSW, CSAC
Program Manager
Hale o Ho'oulu a me Maui'ola
(House of Healing and Growth)
A Bobby Benson Center Program
P.O. Box 873
Kahuku, HI 96731

To Whom It May Concern:

Aloha Kakou, I am writing this letter to show my support of HB1435 & SB1367 relating to Project Kealahou. Our program works with many young men and women from the Windward side of the island that have substance abuse issues, mental health issues, behavioral issues, etc. We recognize the high prevalence of trauma that our young people have gone through or are continuing to go through, especially our young women. Many of them have been physically, verbally and sexually abused; yet we don't have any program specific for girls. Our program is located in Kahuku, on the North side of Oahu. We serve youth from ages 13-17 years old that live within the Ko'olaupua area (Waimea through Ka'a'awa). Our area of the island is known as a Federally Mental Health Underserved Area and a Federally Medically Underserved Area. The more specified programs we have on the Northshore of Oahu, the better the chance of our young women can get the help they need. Project Kealahou is one of those programs that were created specifically for the girls and young women of Hawaii to help them address and work through their trauma. Trauma affects every aspect of the person's life and can even change a person's brain functioning. Project Kealahou has worked and continues to work with our young women that have experienced a traumatic response(s) to an event in their lives and some of them have been able to return back to a normal life. Gender-specific services are vital to the healing and growth of our young women because their issues are different than that of young men and boys. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their specific needs. Please pass this bill to continue to allow Project Kealahou to help Hawaii's young women and girls deal with their trauma. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Signed,



Name: Williams Falevai MSW, CSAC

City/Town: Kahuku, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. This trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes a tremendous difference in the treatment and healing of girls who have histories of trauma. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families and I would like to see it continue and even be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

As an evaluator of the adult counterpart of Project Kealahou, which serves the population of the Adult Mental Health Division, I have seen the adverse effects of childhood trauma in adults. Too often these effects are intergenerational. Project Kealahou identifies and provides the support and services these at-risk female adolescents with trauma histories need to help them cope more effectively and to move forward in their recovery. This early intervention will hopefully help break the intergenerational cycle of person-on-person trauma and neglect.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Project Kealahou.

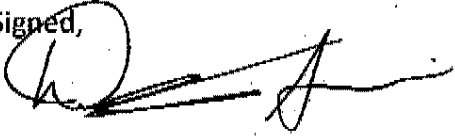
Steven Y. C. Wong
Steven Y. C. Wong, PhD
Grant Evaluation Specialist
Trauma-Informed Care Initiative
Adult Mental Health Division
Hawaii Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street, Suite 257
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

Signed,



Name: Dorothy Sekowski

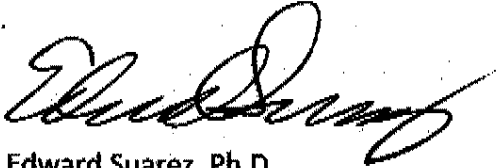
City/Town: Honolulu, HI

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. This program helps Hawaii girls get through difficult times in their lives, and truly begin to heal and find hope again. Please pass this bill.

Signed,



Name: Edward Suarez, Ph.D.

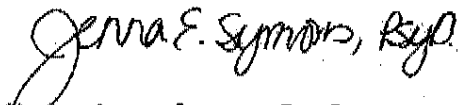
City/Town: Honolulu

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

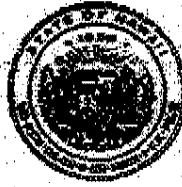
Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. I have been fortunate enough to participate in Project Kealahou sponsored trainings and have learned important new treatments for providing trauma-informed care to the youth I work with. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond.

Signed,



Name: Jenna Symons, Psy.D.

City/Town: Kailua



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
Kauai Family Guidance Center
3-3204 Kuliho Hwy #104
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
(808) 274-3883 / fax (808) 274-3889

Feb. 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a board certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been a critical resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families in Hawai'i and beyond.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chitra Granda".

Name: Chitra Granda, MD

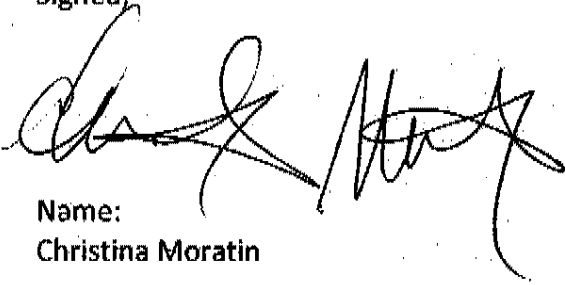
City/Town: Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Moratin', written over a faint, illegible background.

Name:
Christina Moratin

City/Town:
Honolulu

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.


Signed, *Lori J. Coleman*

Name: Lori J. Coleman
918 Hausten Street, Apt. H
Honolulu, HI 96826

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed, 

Name:

Rachael Gray

City/Town:

Honolulu, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help the young women of Hawaii heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,



Name:

Kathleen McGeehan

City/Town:

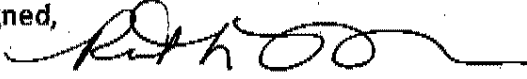
Honolulu HI

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

Signed,



Name:

Ruth Lamer

City/Town:

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I believe girls are unique and need special services to meet their needs. Please pass this bill for the benefit of Hawaii's girls.

Signed, *Janelle Starmer*

Name: *Janelle Starmer*

City/Town: *PEARL CITY*

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,  Bert, Hartsack

Name:

City/Town: Honolulu, HI

Feb. 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in supporting the Bobby Benson Center in implementing as well as training our staff on trauma informed approaches in further helping our clients and their families heal from not only trauma but also in relation to their substance abuse. I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and potentially beyond, as we serve girls from outer islands and see how they benefit from the services Project Kealahou provides while they are in our care.

Signed,



Name: Ashley Wiberg, LCSW
Clinical Director, Bobby Benson Center

City/Town: Kahuku, HI

Bobby Benson Center 56-660 Kamehameha Hwy. Kahuku, Hawaii 9673 | Phone 808-293-7555 | www.bobbybenson.org



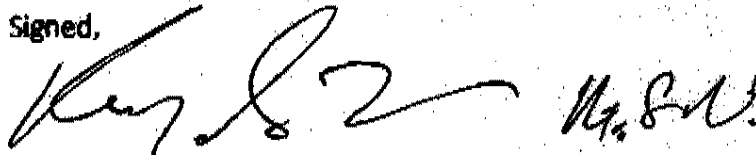
BOBBY BENSON CENTER

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please pass HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. As a service provider, I have seen the tremendous difference trauma-informed, gender-specific care makes in the treatment and healing of boys/girls who have trauma histories. Project Kealahou has been an important resource in helping these girls and their families, and I want to see it continue and be expanded to serve more families on Oahu and beyond. I have also been able to participate in the trainings they have provided and it has benefited the youth that we all serve at the Bobby Benson Center. Please take the time to consider this bill.

Signed,



Name: KERRY S. MOEA'I M.S.W.

City/Town: KAHUKU, HI

Fax from :

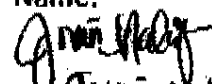
Feb. 9, 2015

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Signed,

Name:


Jovan Malulau

City/Town:

Kahuku, HI 96701

Feb. 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please support HB1435/SB1367, Relating to Project Kealahou. I support this bill because this program provides services that help Hawaii girls heal from traumatic experiences. I want to see this program continue, and even be expanded statewide.

Signed,



Name: Jan Nagamine

City/Town: Kaneohe