

SB 2211

Measure Title: RELATING TO YOUTH GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

Report Title: Youth Gang; Prevention and Intervention; Department of Human Services; Appropriation (\$)

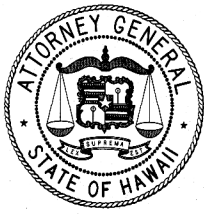
Description: Appropriates funds to the department of human services to target youths who live in public housing who are at risk of engaging in gang activities or joining gangs.

Companion: [HB1986](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/HOU, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, RUDERMAN, Kim, Wakai



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2211, RELATING TO YOUTH GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND ON HOUSING

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 **TIME:** 1:20 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Blair Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Chun Oakland and Harimoto and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$1 for fiscal year 2016-2017 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop prevention and intervention programs to target youth who are at high risk of engaging in gang activities or of joining youth gangs.

Article III, section 14, of the Hawai'i Constitution provides in part: "No law shall be passed except by bill. Each law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The title of this bill, "Relating to Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention," arguably expresses two subjects—youth gang prevention and youth gang intervention. Indeed, the bill requires the DHS to develop programs that both help prevent youth from joining gangs and help intervene in the lives of youth who engage in gang activities. Because the bill appears to include two subjects in its title, the bill may be subject to challenge as violative of article III, section 14, of the Hawai'i Constitution. We suggest this problem could be cured by providing an explanation in section 1 as to why "prevention and intervention" actually constitute a single subject. If this explanation cannot be made and there are really two subjects, we recommend that another vehicle with a title such as "Relating to Youth Gangs" or "Relating to Human Services" be used to enact the appropriation proposed by this bill.

We respectfully ask the Committee to make the suggested amendments or to hold this bill.



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

February 8, 2016

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

The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Merton Chinen, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2211, Relating to Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 1:20 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 agrees that many factors can contribute toward an apparent increase in graffiti, violence, substance abuse and criminal activities. Risk factors such as poverty, higher concentrations of immigration, lack of parental guidance and supervision, and social disorganization in the community can negatively impact a community and its ability to respond to an apparent youth gang problem. Careful analysis of the extent and depth of the type of criminal activity, and apparent symptoms of underlying social and economic dynamics is required prior to committing valuable resources toward any initiative related to our State's at-risk and troubled youth.

OYS supports a balanced and multi-prong approach to strengthen and improve a community's response in addressing any problem affecting a community. Currently, prevention and intervention efforts are underway through ongoing partnerships with various resources such as the police, Department of Education, Judiciary, community-based agencies, and the University of Hawaii, to address problems such as increased criminal activities that may be more related to ethnic and geographic concerns rather than a strict definition of gang activity.

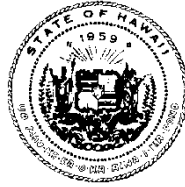
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
The Honorable Breene Harimoto
February 8, 2016
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OYS is committed toward continuing its efforts to provide ongoing leadership in monitoring, evaluating and partnering with the community toward addressing the overall problem of youth delinquency.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to target youths who live in public housing who are at risk of engaging in gang activities or joining gangs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

February 9, 2016 1:20 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2211
RELATING TO YOUTH GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

Honorable Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Harimoto and Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** regarding Senate Bill (SB) 2211, relating to youth gang prevention and intervention.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the general intent of this measure to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to target youths who live in public housing who are at risk of engaging in gang activities or joining gangs. The HPHA welcomes any and all services that may benefit our tenants. As a point of clarification, the issue of youth gangs is a statewide issue not necessarily limited or exclusive to public housing. Perhaps a greater issue at HPHA properties for the legislature to focus on is illegal drug use and activities.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committees on Human Service and Housing with the HPHA's comments regarding SB 2211. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN-OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawai'i**

February 9, 2016

RE: S.B. 2211; RELATING TO YOUTH GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Harimoto, Vice-Chair Riviere, Vice-Chair Galuteria and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") supports the intent of S.B. 2211, however, would urge this committee to consider reallocating the funds associated with S.B. 2211 to Adult Friends for Youth as an alternative agency to carry out the goals and objectives.

The purpose of S.B. 2211 is to help reduce the growing youth gang problem in the State by creating programs aimed to promote education, self-esteem, individual growth and development, leadership, and responsibility. The creation of additional programs to assist our youth is consistent with this Department's ongoing concern for at-risk youth and the rise of youth gang affiliation. Over the years, our Department has seen increases in crime involving youth offenders who at times are as young as 12 years of age. Yet, despite this rise, there are few programs available to youth offenders in Hawaii, often leaving them with little or no meaningful alternatives.

While the purpose of S.B. 2211 is to establish a multi-pronged approach in programs which aim to target at-risk youth who reside in the public housing, our Department would strongly urge this committee to consider appropriating funds associated with S.B. 2211 for the fiscal year 2016-2017 to Adult Friends for Youth as an alternative. Adult Friends for Youth, was established in 1985 at the University of Hawaii, School of Social Work and boasts a stellar track record and history of sustainability which would ensure that any appropriated funds will be

allocated properly and effectively. Adult Friends for Youth works with more than 400 high risk youth per week and has established many successful programs such as their Re-directional Therapy which is an effective therapeutic approach to combat violence, drugs, crime, teen pregnancy, family dysfunction, learning disabilities and anti-social behaviors amount the very high risk youth both in and outside of the classroom. Through the programs implemented by Adult Friends for Youth, their services have successfully changed the attitudes and behaviors of over numerous different gangs. They have also successfully assisted multiple gang members through the difficult task of integration back into the community.

For all the reasons above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the intent of S.B. 2211 and strongly urges this committee to reallocate any funds to the Adult Friends for Youth Program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.