

SB 979

Measure Title: RELATING TO YOUTH.

Report Title: Office of Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth in crisis can access safety and services. Establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator. Allows youth in crisis under 18 years of age to consent to services in the safe places program under certain circumstances. Makes an appropriation.

Companion:

Package: Keiki Caucus

Current Referral: HSH, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, SHIMABUKURO, Baker, Keith-Agaran, L. Thielen



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

February 2, 2015

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 979 – Relating to Youth

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2015
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

PURPOSE: The purpose of SB 979 is to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can safely access and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS strongly supports SB 979 – Relating to Youth, providing for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through the system in order to engage in needed services through outreach and advocacy. In addition, the OYS funds 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. SB 979 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth. Therefore, this bill is one of the Keiki Caucus' priorities.

The fiscal implications of this bill are contingent on the funding allocated by Legislature. The approximate costs associated with this statewide safeplaces project are based on OYS' current outreach and advocacy and emergency shelter initiative :

- Year 1 = \$53,364, Planning and Development

- Year 2 = \$158,414, Implementation – Oahu
- Year 3 = \$174,864, Expansion to Hawaii Island
- Year 4 = \$186,614, Expansion to Maui and Kauai
- Year 5 = \$195,714, Statewide implementation to include travel and training

TOTAL = \$768,714 for the 5 years

Prevention is a critical component in the juvenile justice continuum of services, and this safe place project, by providing youth access to help, advice and guidance before their problems escalate into possible delinquent behaviors, will serve such a purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kahi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

January XX, 2015

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB XXXX HD RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1697 HD 1 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the October 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012, 2013, and 2014 indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network. It takes a 'Ohana to raise a child and the Safe Places Network will make every effort to involve youth's families while provide the much needed link to appropriate care services.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address such issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble and avoid unnecessary arrests for status offenses.

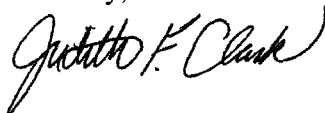
While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith F. Clark".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 1:45 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 979

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) writes in support of S.B. 979, which seeks to create a “safe places for youth” pilot program. PPHI is dedicated to providing Hawaii’s people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy and we support the safe places for youth program because it will have a positive impact on the health of our young people.

A safe places for youth program offers youth easily accessible, safe, and confidential environments where they can deal with issues like peer pressure, unintended pregnancy, child abuse and neglect and substance abuse. Safe places will afford young people the opportunity to obtain the best information and tools that they need to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie Field
Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

HONOLULU
1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-589-1149

KAUAI
357 Rice Street, Suite 101
Lihue, HI 96766
808-482-2756

KONA
Hualalai Medical Center
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI
Kahului Office Center
140 Ho’ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176

Providing the people of Hawaii with exceptional sexual and reproductive health care and education, through fearless advocacy and compassionate, affordable services, since 1966.





Hale Kipa

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February 2, 2015

To: Committee on Human Services and Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Re: SB 979 Relating to Youth----IN SUPPORT

Support SB 979 Relating to Youth-Safe Places

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow Hale Kipa to provide testimony in support of this bill. This initiative arose from identified concerns from youth and it allows for existing youth serving agencies as well as community members and establishments to come together to create a real and critical response system for youth needing some direction.

It is a responsible initiative that has proven successful in other States and Hawaii would have the guidance of the National Safe Place in its implementation of the program.

Having the community become more involved in responding to young people and helping them access the information and resources they need is refreshing and exciting.

Please consider passage of this bill. Hale Kipa would be willing to partner with all interested agencies in providing services for the youth.

Sincerely,

Jaquie Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW
Deputy CEO
Hale Kipa, Inc.



Aloha United Way
Kauai United Way





HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 979

Relating to Youth

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 3, 2015, 1:45 pm, Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports Senate Bill 979, requiring the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services, establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator, establishes rules to allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program and provide immunity from liability to safe place providers and other related service providers, and provides funding for this program.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as home life, income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, and housing environments can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes. The safe places for youth pilot program could provide a resource to address some of these influences and mitigate or prevent negative effects on youth and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY ON SB 979 RELATING TO YOUTH
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

February 3, 2015

1:45 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing. My name is Stephen Morse and I am the Executive Director of **Blueprint for Change**. I am here to testify in **support of SB 979 Relating to Youth**, particularly as it relates to the establishment of a coordinator position as well as the implementation of a pilot program where youth have access to various support services, resources, guidance, and advice where as they otherwise would not have anywhere to go and no one to turn to in times of crisis.

Providing these types of intervention services and resources were identified as a priority by Hawai'i's youth in the 2012, 2013, and 2014 Children & Youth Summits sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus. After the 2012 Summit, the Keiki Caucus formed the Safehouse Working Group to explore alternatives to establishing a safehouse for youth system in Hawaii. The Working Group found that many of the needed safehouse services are already being provided by existing social service organizations, but there was a need to better coordinate a safehouse continuum of services and find better ways to communicate available safehouse resources to children and youth. Of major importance to working group members was the concern expressed that youth who run away from abusive home or school environments are often afraid to seek help for fear of being arrested; and that therefore, there is a need to de-criminalize the efforts by youth to seek help.

Of special concern to us should be the need for a coordinated safehouse system in remote, rural areas of the State where youth are often underserved. In January of 2012, the Director of our Neighborhood Place of Puna reported that a young, 7th grade girl began dropping into the office, located directly across the street from Pahoia School, sporadically over a period of 2 months. After 2 months, she began coming every day and often during school hours. It turns out that besides having a poor home environment, the girl was being bullied at school. NP staff believed the bullying was the result of the girl's ambiguity about her sexual identity. Eventually, NP staff was able to work with Pahoia School counselors to get the girl additional services she needed, but it was a difficult process because of the lack of services in lower Puna.

I am again, strongly in support of SB 979 Relating to Youth. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify afternoon.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF
CARMAEL KAMEALOHA STAGNER
SUPPORT
SB 979
Relating to Youth
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES (OYS)

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 rm 016

Aloha! My name is Carmael Kamealoha Stagner, and I am speaking in favor of SB 979, Safe Places for Youth. My father, the late, Dr Ishmael Worth Stagner, II... a.k.a. "Uncle Ish" "Uncle Ish" was passionate about this bill. Although he passed away last March he is here today, no longer restricted by a 12-hour paid work-week.

He volunteered on behalf of youth who have no voice, as a member of Kaneohe 96744, the State of Hawai'i Suicide Prevention task force, the Keiki Caucus and several community organizations that work with youth. "Uncle Ish" used Aunt Mary Kawena Puku'i's kauhale family model as described in her book *A Polynesian Family in Kā'ū* (Puku'i & Handy, 1989; Tuttle Publishing Company). He never bad-mouthed parents, always transforming thought processes with the young people he worked with by having them sketch who in their lives were their makua, kūpuna and 'āumakua. Sometimes agencies and organizations assumed these roles in a young person's life.

"Uncle Ish" always included family reunification in his treatment planning, but the Safe Places strategy is not necessarily for them. The spirit of this bill is to protect young people from predators on the street, or allow runaways who are too shame a way to go home, or an escape from a boyfriend/pimp.

Former foster children and formerly incarcerated are two samplings at highest risk for homelessness. Hale Kipa reported in 2012 they served 625 homeless youth aged 18-22 at their voluntary drop-in service center in Waikīkī. The same report added in 2011 the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (PASS) rescued eight children under the age of 17 from prostitution, seven were local, the youngest, 11. PASS estimates one child every other day in Waikīkī engages in prostitution.

Here's the story underscoring his drive to collaborate and network with providers and stakeholders. He received call at work from the Honolulu coroner's office to identify a body found under the airport viaducts. She was discovered during a sweep, mostly nude with my father's agency business card in her hand. "That's why we called you," he was told. She was incarcerated for status offenses: curfew violations, habitual runaway and truant from school. Mother was financially dependent on the abusive boyfriend with whom she and their children lived. She was released to the street. As he does with all the young people, "Uncle Ish" handed his business card and told her to call the office if she ever needed anything.

Please fund the coordinator and outreach positions, the curriculum training, the in-service training programs, the research studies... so our community can become the mākuā who provide for and the kūpuna who protect our 'ōpio from harm.

It is much easier to find a fire station, or 711, than it is to find a phone.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
Public Hearing on Senate Bill 979
February 3, 2015

Aloha,

In October 2012, students from around the state flooded into the Capitol building for the "Keiki Caucus". For many, this was the first time they had been explicitly exposed to the democratic process our nation prides itself on, the first time they would be asked for their thoughts, and even more importantly, the first time someone would heed their ideas. I led the small group that first came up with the idea of creating the proposed "safe places" presented in SB979. It wasn't an idea that came all at once, but was slowly built through a long and thoughtful discussion. Students kept reiterating their need for support in serious areas such as suicide prevention, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc. We came to the conclusion that support services for these issues must already exist however, we have no means to access these services, or even know where to start looking for help. If you've ever been in a situation related to these issues, you will understand that the hardest step, especially when you are young, can be reaching out for help. The youth recognized that the current system prevents youth willing to take this difficult step from being partnered with service providers that can offer much-needed support or counseling.

When our small group presented the idea of safe places to the entire Keiki Caucus, the support for our idea was overwhelming. The idea of safe places clearly was the highest prioritized item to come out of the caucus. The significance of this cannot be emphasized enough. Although the title "Keiki Caucus" may lead you to think this was simply a children's exercise on a field trip to the state capitol, it was in fact a serious identification of a major problem by the future leaders of Hawaii. Working with Senator Oakland and the "Safe Place" committee has been amazing, as we have transformed students' spoken words into a official senate bill that presents a well-planned solution to a paramount problem.

As a graduate of Radford High school I can validate the concerns of our youth. Even now, as an undergraduate at Yale University, I see the damaging disconnect in pairing youth in need with potentially life-changing resources provided by the government or the school. In the time I lived in Hawaii, I learned the valuable lesson about the importance of caring for something now in order to allow it to be prosperous in the future. Taking the time to establish these safe places now will provide youth with resources that will change their life. As we all know, our youth are the world's future, the state of Hawaii's future, our future. Please listen to the voices of our youth and support SB979.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Madeline K. Skrocki
Yale University, class of 2017
Radford High School, class of 2013

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: danny.melton@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 31, 2015 1:33:35 PM

SB979

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danny Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Senator Green: I oppose this bill. The state cannot afford it or should I say Hawaii's taxpayers cannot afford to create special "safe zones" for students in crisis. All schools should be safe places for Hawaii's keiki. It starts with the school faculty being empowered to disipline students who harass other students. The so called safe zones also would undermine parental rights. There must be a partnership between parents and teachers in the education of students. Please stop this bill. Respectfully Dan Melton Waipahu, Hawaii

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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January 31, 2015

RE: Opposition to SB 979 Relating to Youth

Testimony from: Cheryl Toyofuku

Re: SB 979 Relating to Youth

Committee: HSH (Human Services and Housing)

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Hearing Time: 1:45 p.m.

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

Dear Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee:

Thank you for your service to Hawaii. After reading SB 979, although well-meaning, I am writing as a parent and grandparent to respectfully request that you do not pass this bill out of your committee. The provisions in SB 979 share about the legislature's well-intended concerns about having "safe places" for the health and safety of our youth. I would like to share perspectives that I urge you to consider.

Most of you are probably parents and grandparents yourselves and you are well aware of the challenges of cultivating and maintaining healthy relationships in our families. Policies and righteous laws that strengthen families and provide resources for parents are urgently and vitally necessary. This is to make sure that our ordained role as the primary educators and trainers of our children are well nourished and protected.

It is apparent that effective parent training is lacking in many areas of our society which perpetuates unhealthy consequences in raising the next generation. In addition to this, negative influences from peers, questionable school curriculums, immoral media and other outside influences sadly affect family dynamics and relationships. But, this should not undermine the important role and rights that parents have in being the primary caregiver and decision maker for their children.

Many parents of Hawaii will agree that although children and youth are "interested in accessing places where they could seek safety from intolerable home or school environments without fear of being judged, detained or criminalized", this interest should not be seen as more important than the perspectives and authority of a parent. Also, "access to other youth-specific advice, guidance, programs and services" may not be in line with the family's perspectives and values. Sensitive subjects as suicide and pregnancy prevention should be addressed by the parent or counselor of their choice and not a youth program coordinator who may not have similar viewpoints and values.

The definition of "problems at home" would probably involve an unclear and misunderstanding between the "youth in crisis" and a parent who may be setting guidelines or standards for appropriate choices and behavior. Lastly, although SB 979 states that this program will offer services such as family counseling or mediation and that there will be an attempt to obtain parental or guardian consent, there are still questions to how this would be presented, arranged and executed. Once again, parental rights appear most at stake here which generates a major and disturbing concern. Please oppose SB 979 and do not pass this bill out of your committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Toyofuku

Ph: 808-561-0369, healthjourney@hawaii.rr.com, Pearl City, HI 96782

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: kukahikoe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:00:22 AM

SB979

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eldean Kukahiko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill. There are too many problems. Two of which is as follows; 1. The "Service provider" in Section 2 (d) and (e), I feel, has too much power. I sense there will many problems regarding our juvenile laws with regards to parental notification, consent and the housing of a minor. 2. There is no mention or provision regarding our Hawaiian Traditional certified "Ho'oponopono system that should be at the forefront of all family solutions and support. Please do not pass this bill. It needs more work. Mahalo for allowing me to comment.

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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Statement of
Eric Ching
before the
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Tuesday, February 3, 2015
1:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
SB 979
RELATING TO YOUTH

Good morning Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee. My name is Eric Ching and I am a concerned resident of Hawaii.

I am **opposed to this bill** because it takes away the parents' freedom to express their love for their children that warrants discipline and restoration at times. If Hawaii is one of the healthiest places in the nation for children, why are you trying to create another program to destroy that? Proposed "safe places" will only confuse our children and may be used by them to manipulate their parents if they become disgruntled. There are many shelters and existing programs that are available to youth and adults alike who are vulnerable.

In times of budget shortfall we should be looking for more efficient ways to maximize existing programs to ease daily threats to their health and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

TESTIMONY to Senate Human Services and Housing

S.B. 979 Relating to Youth -
Office of Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; Appropriation

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

1:45 PM State Capitol Conference Room 016

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by: Fern Mossman, HI 96789

Here are just some of the many reasons to oppose SB 979:

1) Drafters of this legislation have hijacked the word "safe." Safe zone initiatives are just the latest of subtle tactics by activists to infiltrate classrooms. http://media.citizenlink.com/truetolerance/p9_June_Jul_Citizen_10_antibullying.pdf. Safe spaces legislation policies adopted by other states have been used to undermine parental rights and marginalize individuals whose views may be perceived as politically incorrect.

2) The legislation does not propose that service providers work in conjunction WITH parents. SB 979 would usurp parental rights and pit the service coordinator AGAINST the parents of a minor child.

3) The bill, as written, seems to assume that problems between teens and parents are most likely the fault of the parent.

4) The legislation proposes to give an inordinate amount of power to the "safe spaces" coordinator and to the network of "service providers" under his or her auspices. Ask yourselves who these service providers might be (Planned Parenthood)? FYI, Planned Parenthood was a supporter of this bill last year.

5) The bill as written assumes that the state is the "good guy" in all this, but let's do a reality check.

-- The state has not always adequately vetted other child centered agencies.

. The State of Hawaii has repeatedly placed our keiki in unsafe environments after supposedly having "vetted" caregivers as "safe". It was January 17, 2015 that the Star Advertiser wrote about the horrendous incompetence of putting children in the care of a man who abused two girls in his care. This abuser used the cover of running "Heart Gallery Hawaii", the local chapter of a national organization that recruits parents for hard-to-adopt foster children.

Then only a week later, January 25, 2015 we learn of a Maui man who abused his foster children. This man was living with multiple identities and even after abusing one child, convinced our vetting authorities to give him more foster children who then he also abused.

"Advocate for Foster Children Convicted of Two Girls' Assaults"
<http://www.staradvertiser.com/s?action=login&f=y&id=288913431>

6) Safe spaces program has the potential to attract predators who would have unfettered access to vulnerable children (e.g., the state foster system is already under scrutiny for how it vets families). Also, more and more teachers are committing sexual crimes against their students. This is becoming more and more prevalent in our schools. In 2013 it was reported that a 39 year old teacher, Bryan Lindberg, abused a 14 year old student. Fourteen years old is the age that keiki would be able to participate in the proposed pilot project. We know from incidents like this girl's that students that age are not mature enough to make decisions and can be preyed upon by adults that some consider in positions of trust. It was in November of 2014 we learned about a teacher, Deborah Nicholson Hoshiyama, 45 who had been hired by a Makiki Charter school was accused of having sex with an eighth-grade student on the mainland. Abuse can be committed by both men and women teachers
Children left in Molester's Care" <http://www.staradvertiser.com/s?action=login&f=y>

7) The state takes on liability for abused children and they would be responsible. We the people can't afford it. **We're already being sued.**

"Former foster kids sue the state after sexual abuse by foster dad" <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/27691604/former-foster-kids-sue-the-state-after-sexual-abuse-by-foster-dad>

Again, the state cannot afford it. Gov. David Ige has already said there's no extra money in the state's two-year, \$25.7 billion budget." <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/21/hawaii-legislature-opens-with-debates-on-budget-ma/#ixzz3QKoUlpvi>

The new Governor has reported that the State does not have enough funds to meet all its obligations. It is not the time to start a new program, especially since this is one that could open the State to numerous lawsuits. As reported in December 2014, some abused foster children are suing the State for their lack of diligence in screening foster parents. As reported, "... Morris had been homeless just before becoming a foster parent should have been obvious..." As Hawaii News Now reported about the case, "The boys were forced to drink alcohol, repeatedly sexually and physically assaulted, and forced to watch porn." This proposed pilot program opens the State to costly, unfunded liabilities and endangers the welfare of children.

8) The State is clearly abusing the keiki's innocence and naivety to demand that they be held "responsible" for their decision to abandon protections they deserve as minors.

A fourteen year old is a child and must be treated as one. There is a reason children are considered minors until they are 18 and the State should not short circuit those protections. This provision undermines parental authority and should not be allowed. The State should not encourage minors (those under 18) to sign away their protections and be treated as adults when it is obvious the state cannot be depended upon to protect them (Section 2 d.).(d)Service providers may provide services to a consenting youth in crisis who is less than eighteen years of age if the service provider reasonably believes that:(1) The youth in crisis understands the significant benefits, responsibilities, risks, and limits of the service provider and its services and can communicate an informed consent; (2) The youth in crisis understands the requirements and rules of the service provider and services (3) The service provider

and services are necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the youth in crisis; and (4) The service provider has conducted an assessment and determined that the youth in crisis does not pose a danger to self or to others persons at the safe place. If the service provider determines that admitting the youth in crisis poses a danger, the service provider shall report the matter to an appropriate agency.

9) SB 979 has insufficient data. The statements for justification are written in generalities as opposed to particulars (e.g., it says things like this "...Hawaii's youth are not immune to daily threats to their health and safety. Every year, youth faced with pressures, threats, or fears seek help outside their families to receive guidance and assistance.") Where is the statistical data? How many children? What other agencies are supposed to be helping now? If they are supposed to help and are not, then who is continuing to fund them and why?

-- There are no studies or statistics in this bill to support this proposal. Like last year, it appears that the number one reason for putting this bill forward is because the "keiki" want it or because it ranked "highest" on their (the kids') list of priorities, etc.

Thank you for your consideration. I most strongly recommend that you do not pass SB 979 out of committee.

Sincerely,
Fern Mossman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: myprovider@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 31, 2015 3:45:29 PM

SB979

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. J.L. Walton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a parent I want what's best for my children and a stronger will not be as concerned as I am. Parents and children must together, learn how to depend on one another. No matter how difficult it may be at times, it's a part of family development. This bill will undermine my rights as a parent. So I OPPOSE it.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: jerry@rxkl.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 12:39:14 PM

SB979

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Bangerter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am absolutely, totally and completely against the passage of SB979 in any form whatsoever. Family is a responsibility of the Mother and Father and Extended Family; NOT the Hawaii State Government or the City and County of Honolulu. Having read this proposed legislation twice to be sure I understand it, I can only conclude that it is a power grab and written with an intent to mislead. Just catch criminals and put them in jail and leave them there. Stop trying to rehabilitate these losers and put them away where they can't hurt anyone, especially their wives and children. Hawaii is more than negligent in this regard. Whatever, SB979 is a pernicious law designed to usurp family responsibility PERIOD. Government is a fearsome thing when it resorts to this kind of deceit and power grabbing. Granddad jer

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: inhocsig@java.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 7:22:25 PM
Attachments: [Oppose SB 979.pages.zip](#)

SB979

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kent Duffy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Dear HSH Committee,

I oppose SB979 as it encroaches on the rights of parents to be involved w/their children in crisis. I oppose the government/school house intervening and counseling my children. Let me be the parent.

I also oppose the change in the opt in and now opt out portion when it comes to sex education.

Let's be transparent and let us be the parents!

Thank you,

Lois Young/Wahiawa

From: mpeary1947@aol.com
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Subject: I oppose SB 979
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:14:26 AM

Dear HSH Chair, Vice Chair and HSH Members,

I am opposed to SB 979 for the following reasons:

- The U. S. Supreme Court regards parental rights as fundamental. Such a status should subject any proposed legislation that directly and substantively interferes with the exercise of parental rights to strict scrutiny. SB 979 does not do that.
- Drafters of this legislation have hijacked the word "safe." Safe zone initiatives are just the latest of subtle tactics by activists to infiltrate classrooms.
http://media.citizenlink.com/truetolerance/p9_June_Jul_Citizen_10_antibullying.pdf
- The legislation does not propose that service providers work in conjunction WITH parents. SB 979 would usurp parental rights and pit the service coordinator AGAINST the parents of a minor child.
- The bill as written seems to assume that problems between teens and parents are most likely the fault of the parent.
- SB 979 is just another government program which pits the state against the parent.
- The legislation proposes to give an inordinate amount of power to the "safe spaces" coordinator and to the network of "service providers" under his or her auspices. Ask yourselves who these service providers might be (Planned Parenthood)? FYI, Planned Parenthood was a supporter of this bill last year.
- The bill as written assumes that the state is the "good guy" in all this but let's do a reality check.
- Safe spaces program has the potential to attract predators who would have unfettered access to vulnerable children (e.g., the state foster system is already under scrutiny for how it vets families).

Children left in Molester's Care"

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/s?action=login&f=y>

- The state has not always adequately vetted other child centered agencies.

“Advocate for Foster Children Convicted of Two Girls’ Assaults”

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/s?action=login&f=y&id=288913431>

The state takes on liability for abused children and they would be responsible. We the people, can't afford it. We're already being sued.

“Former foster kids sue the state after sexual abuse by foster dad”

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/27691604/former-foster-kids-sue-the-state-after-sexual-abuse-by-foster-dad>

- Safe spaces legislation policies adopted by other states have been used to undermine parental rights and marginalize individuals whose views may be perceived as politically incorrect.
- Again, the state cannot afford it. Gov. David Ige has already said there's no extra money in the state's two-year, \$25.7 billion budget."
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/21/hawaii-legislature-opens-with-debates-on-budget-ma/#ixzz3QKoUlpvi>
- SB 979 has insufficient data. The statements for justification are written in generalities as opposed to particulars (e.g., it says things like this “...Hawaii's youth are not immune to daily threats to their health and safety. Every year, youth faced with pressures, threats, or fears seek help outside their families to receive guidance and assistance.”) Where is the statistical data? How many children? What other agencies are supposed to be helping now? If they are supposed to help and are not, then who is continuing to fund them and why?
- There are no studies or statistics in this bill to support this proposal. Like last year, it appears that the number one reason for putting this bill forward is because the "keiki" want it or because it ranked “highest” on their (the kids') list of priorities, etc.

Thank you for your considering my remarks in opposing this bill and I am asking the HSH Committee to oppose it as well.

Mahalo,

Margaret Peary
PO Box 631069
Lanai City, HI
96763
808-780-6657

TESTIMONY to Senate Human Services and Housing

S.B. 979 Relating to Youth -
Office of Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; Appropriation

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

1:45 PM -- State Capitol Conference Room 016

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI 96789

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Josh Green and Committee Members:

1. I OPPOSE S.B. 979. It is clearly not necessary, unaffordable and based on the poor track record of our State vetting safe environments for our keiki, completely irresponsible. The first sentence of the bill indicates that the requested pilot program is not needed. "The legislature finds that Hawaii is one of the safest and healthiest places in the nation for children and youth." It makes no sense to make changes which could imperil that status. A second rationale for the program was identified as: the keiki want it. Anyone who has been a child knows that children often want things that are harmful to their welfare. Mature adults understand that there are many in the world. Parents are the optimal counselors and advisors for their children and have their best interest in mind. We have learned all too often that people who are child abusers gravitate to programs and situations that will put them in close contact with vulnerable children who can be easily victimized.

2. The State of Hawaii has repeatedly placed our keiki in unsafe environments after supposedly having "vetted" caregivers as "safe". It was January 17, 2015 that the Star Advertiser wrote about the horrendous incompetence of putting children in the care of a man who abused two girls in his care. This abuser used the cover of running "Heart Gallery Hawaii", the local chapter of a national organization that recruits parents for hard-to-adopt foster children. Then only a week later, January 25, 2015 we learn of a Maui man who abused his foster children. This man was living with multiple identities and even after abusing one child, convinced our vetting authorities to give him more foster children who then he also abused.

3. As I testified previously against a similar bill, more and more teachers are committing sexual crimes against their students. This is becoming more and more prevalent in our schools. In 2013 it was reported that a 39 year old teacher, Bryan Lindberg, abused a 14 year old student. Fourteen years old is the age that keiki would be able to participate in the proposed pilot project. We know from incidents like this girl's that students that age are not mature enough to make decisions and can be preyed upon by adults that some consider in positions of trust. It was in November of 2014 we learned about a teacher, Deborah Nicholson Hoshiyama, 45 who had been hired by a Makiki Charter school was accused of having sex with an eighth-grade student on the mainland. Abuse can be committed by both men and women teachers.

4. Children are susceptible to sexual grooming by predators who pose as a "caring adult". The startling fact is that the same measures the FBI warns about to protect children from sexual predators: Matt Barber and Dr. Judith Reisman are reported extensively on how today's "comprehensive sex education programs in schools make children especially vulnerable to predators. "According to the FBI, child molesters:

- Demonstrate sex acts to children. Offenders commonly use pornography to teach or give instructions to naïve children about how to masturbate, perform oral sex and/or engage in sexual intercourse.
- Lower the sexual inhibitions of children. Some children naturally fear sexual activities. Some offenders show pictures of other children engaging in sexual activities to overcome these fears, indicating to their intended victims that it is all right to have sex with an adult because lots of other boys and girls do the same thing.
- Desensitize children to sex. Offenders commonly show child pornography to their intended victims to expose them to sexual acts before they are naturally curious about such activities.
- Sexually arouse children. Offenders commonly use pornographic images of other children to arouse victims, particularly those in adolescence. "

5. These are the same activities occurring in Pono Choices / Making Proud Choices and other offensive sex education programs. After being exposed to this pornographic and value neutral sex lessons, the children are led to believe they are ready to make adult sexual decisions while still a minor. It is our government that has been promoting this type of curricula and all the while the problem of human trafficking has become more and more problematic. For some reason our State has ignored the fact that abstinence only education leads to better outcomes than these "abstinence-based" curricula that is proving to be a failure for our State. The head of Hawaii's youth services, Judith Clark was recently on a PSB special and although she acknowledged abstinence is the only 100% way to avoid pregnancy and STI's, she appears to ignore the findings of significant research compiled by the Heritage Foundation that proves the benefits of abstinence only education. Hawaii advocates curricula that assumes children "are gong to do it anyway" so teach them contraception as part of an "abstinence based" sex education program. As stated in the Heritage Foundation article: "In recent years, parental support for real abstinence education has grown. Because of this, many traditional safe-sex programs now take to calling themselves "abstinence plus" or "abstinence-based" education. In reality, there is little abstinence training in "abstinence-based" education. Instead, these programs are thinly disguised efforts to promote condom use." That is an irresponsible attitude to take, especially when you are aware that participating in early sexual activity makes it more likely that you participate in other risky behaviors. As reported in the Heritage Foundation article: "A study reported in Pediatrics magazine found that sexually active boys aged 12 through 16 are four times more likely to smoke and six times more likely to use alcohol than are those who describe themselves as virgins. Among girls in this same age cohort, those who are sexually active are seven times more likely to smoke and 10 times more likely to use marijuana than are those who are virgins.[12] The report describes sexual activity as a "significant associate of other health-endangering

behaviors" and notes an increasing recognition of the interrelation of risk behaviors. Research by the Alan Guttmacher Institute likewise finds a correlation between risk behaviors among adolescents and sexual activity; for example, teenagers who use alcohol, tobacco, and/or marijuana regularly are more likely to be sexually active.[13]"

6. The new Governor has reported that the State does not have enough funds to meet all its obligations. It is not the time to start a new program, especially since this is one that could open the State to numerous lawsuits. As reported in December 2014, some abused foster children are suing the State for their lack of diligence in screening foster parents. As reported, "... Morris had been homeless just before becoming a foster parent should have been obvious..." As Hawaii News Now reported about the case, "The boys were forced to drink alcohol, repeatedly sexually and physically assaulted, and forced to watch porn." This proposed pilot program opens the State to costly, unfunded liabilities and endangers the welfare of children.

7. It is unconceivable that the State would encourage minors (those under 18) to sign away their protections and be treated as adults when it is obvious the state cannot be depended upon to protect them (Section 2 d.). The State is clearly abusing the keiki's innocence and naivety to demand that they be held "responsible" for their decision to abandon protections they deserve as minors. A fourteen year old is a child and must be treated as one. There is a reason children are considered minors until they are 18 and the State should not short circuit those protections. This provision undermines parental authority and should not be allowed.

8. There are already a multitude of organizations for youth. The government is not needed to start yet another program, There are girl scouts, boy scouts, brownies, cub scouts, camp fire girls, boys and girls clubs, and many others. It is not government's place to provide programs. There are numerous non-profits and community organizations providing adult leadership, counseling and interaction already. The proposed pilot program is just another redundant program which will waste time and money and endanger children. Try as hard as they could to protect boys from abuse by restricting homosexual men from becoming leaders, men who had the desire and intent to abuse boys volunteer and take advantage of the keiki. Former volunteer Boy Scout leader Al Stein was accused of molesting three boys in 2007 and pleaded no contest to child endangerment charges. He is now registered as a sex offender in Salinas, California as reported in this January 29, 2015 article. It is often the government that pressures organizations to include people with known sexual preferences for young boys and allows the youngsters to be put in danger.

9. Please keep this in mind, the government has been adding programs to fight homelessness -- and we have more homeless. The government has been working to eliminate poverty and we have more people in poverty than ever before. The government has been working to eliminate "hunger" and we have more people dependent on government for food than ever before. The government has been working to eliminate teen pregnancy and we have more teens becoming pregnant and are acquiring sexually

transmitted infections. There is a bad track record for government programs. They spend a lot of tax dollars and don't get results and may in fact make the situation worse.

10. I most strongly recommend that you do not pass SB 979 out of committee.

February 2, 2015

Re: Oppose SB979

Dear Representatives of the People of Hawaii:

I am opposed to SB979 due to the fact that it takes my parental rights to help my child based on our family culture and values. Many parents shelter their children from any harm that may come to them. This bill takes away my right as a parent to shield my child from the things that I don't believe in.

As a parent, I should be able to have a say on what I do and don't want them to learn. I am the one responsible for my child until they reach the legal age to make their own choices. If I can't help them in the most crucial years of their life and the state will decide what I can and can't do as a parent, then will the state be responsible for them if something happens to my child due to their actions and programs that I wasn't involved in the decision process? Who will take ownership of these actions?

I know the answer to this question is that I will have to deal with the consequences since my love for my child is greater than an agency that will have more problems than it could handle. Our government doesn't have enough money to pass bills that need agencies to continue running for a long period to mentor our children. Please do not pass SB979 for the sake of all responsible parents that will have to be there to pick up the pieces.

Mahalo,

Nell Nunies
Parent/Grandparent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: TDC@HAWAII.RR.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 8:58:18 AM

SB979

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TOM CARRINGTON	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: A grand design which does not seem to fit the \$53k allotted. But mainly opposed due to the state's attempt to usurp parental authority. Have already seen many of the mistakes the State has already made in their attempts to help, as evidenced by many of the lawsuits and incompetent matching of state approved foster parents. This is a lukewarm bill which comes off as being well wished for, but in reality is nothing but the beginning of opening a Pandora's box of lawsuits, escalating money needs, and infiltration of not so nice helpers like Planned Parenthood and predators.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: lola96744@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB979 on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 8:50:11 PM

SB979

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lola kau	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I do not support this bill because it takes the parent out of the decision/responsibility making process and assumes questionable adults ability to make decisions regarding my child. It is the parent's right, & responsibility to be a part of the child's life in all aspects. It is the responsibility of the state to support parents and not isolate them from the youngster. Again, please consider this as I do not support this bill.

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