



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

February 27, 2017

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 844 HD1, Relating to Youth

Hearing: Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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 currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through a continuum of care system in order to engage in needed services, including outreach and advocacy, and 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. The measure would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth. OYS also has the following comments:

- Hawaii Revised Statute §346 –17.6 includes a listing of services related to no cost emergency shelters to which a minor may consent given several contingencies, and if the services to be provided are deemed appropriate by the provider. We recommend similar language be included in this bill to both clarify and ensure that a minor can consent to the services that would be provided under this bill.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to require the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program in partnership with private organizations to coordinate a network that youth can access for safety and where youth can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program Coordinator position and appropriates funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:00 PM – Agenda #2
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

By

Judge R. Mark Browning
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 844, House Draft 1, Relating to Youth.

Purpose: Requires OYS to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports this bill that will offer a much needed service to homeless youth and that may be a pivotal moment for a youth to find a way back to healthy, life-affirming choices.

In the experience of the family court, young people on the streets are not usually there as a result of individual willful rebellion or bad intent. Some of these kids come from good families but leave as a result of trauma experienced outside of the home or exposure to negative influences they are exposed to because of poverty. Some of these kids come from families suffering from generations of dysfunction, violence, and substance abuse. This bill, like other Safe Places throughout the country will “broker” services to these young people non-judgmentally and with kindness and acceptance. The Office of Youth Services (OYS) is particularly well suited to administer such a program. It is, of course, crucial that the OYS receive adequate funding to implement the vision of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 28, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

**SUPPORT FOR HB844 HD1
“RELATING TO YOUTH”**

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:00 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports HB844 HD1 “Relating to Youth”, which would appropriate funds to establishes a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program. **HB844 HD1 is consistent with DPH’s 2017 legislative priorities to address youth at risk education programs and youth neighborhood drop-in center programs.**

Mahalo in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tim Vandever
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

/s/ Margaret Wille
/s/ Sean Smith
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-chairs

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

February 27, 2017

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 844 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 844 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 expand our children's 'ohana through caring neighbors in our communities.

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 with the law. It will provide early intervention that avoids involvement with the juvenile justice, child welfare systems and helps youth and families resolve their issues.

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, notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

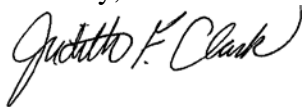
After the immediate crisis response, youth-serving agencies will help families resolve the issues that led the youth to seek help from a Safe Place site.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kat.caphi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM

HB844

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	Yes

Comments: Please support our youth who need safe spaces with caring and trusted people to handle the struggles they are experiencing. Mahalo!

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:27 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: paulwnormann@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM

HB844

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Normann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support this bill. We must do all we can to help keep our youths from becoming homeless. We should also work tirelessly to help those youths who are currently homeless find ways to get off the "street" and back into housing and lives with a positive future.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:41 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mindyolvera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM*

HB844

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melinda Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: RainbowFamily808@gmail.com Ph: (808) 779-9078 Fax: (808) 672-6347

DATE: February 28, 2017

RE: HB 844 HD1 Provide Safe Places for Homeless Youth **STRONG SUPPORT**

TO: House Finance Committee Hearing

Aloha House Representatives Luke, Cullen and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 844 HD1 for funding two Mobile Clinics and their operation for the underserved Homeless. Rainbow Family 808 is a support and resource organization that focuses on reaching out to all families in love, support and advocacy, for Homeless especially our Homeless Youth.

Rainbow Family 808 asks that HB 844 HD1 be passed with sufficient funds to benefit our growing Homeless Youth population. It is in keeping with Rainbow Family 808's main goal for the past 3+ years that we identified a puka that we could fill for the Homeless Youth: deliver Fresh Dairy and Produce on a weekly basis, 52 weeks of each year. We have surpassed our original goal and now wish to become a bigger part of the solution. There are many needs in the Homeless Youth Population and HB844 HD1 is any important step forward. It is how we care for our Homeless Youth that defines our humanity and our Aloha.

Please pass HB 844 HD1 with sufficient funding to reach our Homeless Youth in a manner that is respectfully in keeping with the Aloha State that we strive to be. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
President and Co-Founder

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 6:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM

HB844

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to do much more to protect our homeless youth who are on the streets, for the most part, due to domestic violence, abuse or for being LGBT.

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