



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Monday, April 3, 2017 1:35 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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 leave their families as a result of trauma experienced outside of the home or exposure to negative influences. 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB844 on Apr 3, 2017 13:35PM*

HB844

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 3, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Monday, April 3, 2017

1:35 pm

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 844 HD1 - YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION IN OYS

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the approximately 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people 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.

HB 844 HD1 requires 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 and appropriates funds to establish a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program Coordinator position.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. What would make it even stronger is to ensure that some of the youth have experience in the foster and justice systems.

A review of the National Safe Place website¹ and conversations with other youth advocates have emphasized the importance of having a network of safe places for youth needing immediate assistance.

¹ National Safe Place <http://nationalsafeplace.org/>

Here is how the National Safe Place website defines the need:

What is Safe Place?

Safe Place is a national youth outreach and prevention program for young people in need of immediate help and safety. As a community-based program, Safe Place designates businesses and organizations as Safe Place locations, making help readily available to youth in communities across the country. Locations include: libraries, YMCA's fire stations, public buses, various businesses, and social service facilities.

The National Safe Place Network mission is: *"Ensuring an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at a local, state and national level."* The Network envisions a world where all youth are safe and valued and where youth

- are capable of initiating the helping process and taking an active role in creating a healthier living situation.
- are more likely to seek help in places that are familiar, safe and identified by a standard, recognizable logo.
- have access to services on a nondiscriminatory basis.

I recently facilitated a discussion panel after the film, "They Call Us Monsters" about youth in the California Justice System who committed serious crimes. Judge Browning was on the panel and the first reaction he relayed to the audience was, "These are NOT our kids." He spoke about understanding the trauma that many of these youth suffer, of treating our youth with love and kindness and compassion.

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.

This bill, like other Safe Places throughout the country will "broker" services to these young people nonjudgmentally and with kindness and acceptance. Let's help our youth reach their highest and best potential by honoring their stories, valuing their ideas and loving them as our greatest treasures!

We urge the committee to pass this important bill and champion our youth! Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

April 1, 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 844 HD1 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1281 HD1 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 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, 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.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2017 10:48 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
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HB844

Submitted on: 4/2/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB844

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

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

Comments: The long-term outcomes and future success of youth who have experience homelessness are grim. We must do everything we can to house our homeless youth and prevent youth from becoming homeless. Please support this bill.

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