



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

February 3, 2017

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 1220, Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:10 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. There are currently youth driven advisory boards or councils in the community that focus on areas pertinent to their specific interests, such as the HI HOPES Youth Advisory Council that aims to educate, advocate, and collaborate with the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services, to improve the child welfare system, including foster care. Another example is the Teen Link Hawaii Youth Advisors sponsored by the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii that provides valuable input regarding youth perspectives on living a substance-free lifestyle. OYS believes the youth voice should be recognized and included in determining policies and recommendations on important matters impacting their lives. OYS has the following additional comments on coordinating and sustaining an effective youth advisory commission:

- Members should be diverse, including a strong representation of youth at risk
- Adequate funding for coordinating, training and implementation is critical for success
- Recognize youth have busy schedules, need flexible options for meetings, and should be compensated accordingly for their valuable participation

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to establish a youth advisory commission within the Office of Youth Services to advise the Governor and Legislature on issues relating to youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

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`o

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 2, 2017

Senator Josh Green, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Testimony in Support of SB 1220 Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1220 Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

The Office of Youth Services needs input from the population it serves – youth. It will inform needs assessment, planning and evaluation of services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and those who are at risk of juvenile crime, substance abuse, and homelessness. And there are many benefits for the youth who participate on the advisory commission as well.

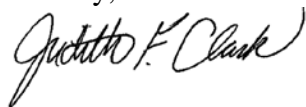
The children and youth of Hawaii are our future. The way we treat them today, the opportunities we provide them and the investments we make in their development will influence the kind of adults they will become.

Children and youth live and participate in our communities. We must recognize and value them as community assets. We need to include young people in decisions that affect their lives in communities, school systems, churches and in our public policy decision making.

Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends that the Commission include members with personal experience of juvenile justice system involvement or with other services provided through the Office of Youth Services such as emergency shelter.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



February 5, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair
MARIE STRAZAR
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

SB1220 “RELATING TO A YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION”

February 6, 2017 3:10 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports SB1220 “Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission” which will establish a Commission to advise the Governor and the legislature concerning matters affecting the youth of the State. **The intent of this legislation is consistent with the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s legislative priority to provide outreach to youth at risk.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tim Vandever (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i
/s/ Marie (Dolly) Strazar (hilomds@gmail.com)
Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

/s/ Margaret Wille (margaretwille@mac.com)
/s/ Sean Smith (simashang@yahoo.com)
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 6:28 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mlopes@hscadv.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1220 on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM*

SB1220

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HMS on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marci Lopes | Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Support | No |

Comments:

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1130 N. NIMITZ HWY, SUITE C-210, HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: (808) 838-7752 TOLL FREE: (866) 636-1644 FAX: (808) 838-1653

Senate Committee on Human Services

Monday, February 6, 2017
State Capitol, Room 016

From: **Delia Ulima, Statewide Initiative Coordinator**
Hawaii Youth Opportunities Initiative, EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.
Re: **In SUPPORT of SB 1220**

Aloha! My name is Delia Ulima and I am a Statewide Initiative Coordinator for the Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative. We are the local site for the national Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative/Annie E. Casey Foundation and EPIC 'Ohana is the lead agency for this work in Hawai'i. The Initiative works with systems, such as the Department of Human Services-Child Welfare Services, Family Court and other service providers and partners within the public and private sector to create opportunities and support transitioning foster youth to successfully move into adulthood and become a contributing part of our community.

I would like to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1220, which establishes a youth advisory commission within the offices of youth services to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth.

One of my primary roles with the Hawaii Youth Opportunities Initiative at EPIC 'Ohana is to oversee the work of the HI H.O.P.E.S. youth leadership boards. These boards are made up of current and former foster youth between the ages of 14-26 and there are five boards; on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui and East and West Hawai'i. Their roles are to educate others about the needs and experiences of foster youth, advocate for policy and practice improvements, and collaborate with key stakeholders to create opportunities and supports for young people so they can thrive and become successful adults. These boards have been in existence since March 2010 and have made a tremendous impact on making positive changes within the child welfare system and collaborating with the community to improve outcomes for foster youth. Some of their legislative achievements include championing the efforts to extend voluntary care to age 21, Medicaid to 26 for former foster youth before the Affordable Care Act became law and a normalcy and prudent parenting law that encourages social development and protects caregivers, signed into law on June 29 of 2016. Their voices are powerful and they are resilient, passionate individuals who have overcome enormous challenges and yet still choose to have hope and to serve their foster brothers and sisters. They are leaders and serve with purpose and vision. Many of them have gone on to college, graduate school, have families and are serving in various capacities throughout the community.

It is for this reason that I support the creation of a committee that will allow young people to have a voice and the ear of the governor and the legislature. When we listen to young people about what is important to them and about those things that impact their lives, we all win as a community. I give this support, however, with some well-intentioned recommendations. I think we, as adults, often want to include the youth voice and may create groups or committees thinking that it will yield the outcomes that we're hoping for, but that is not always the case. In my experience overseeing the work of several youth boards over the course



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of the last several years, a strong and effective youth board/committee that practices authentic youth engagement will ideally have the following: structure, guidance, support, and opportunity. There has to be an adult leader/s to guide, mentor, support and train them. There needs to be youth-friendly and age-appropriate guidelines and expectations. There has to be training, support, preparation, compensation for their time and the opportunity to practice, present, participate, advocate and collaborate. It takes time, dedication, the right skill set and tools to encourage and develop youth engagement and leadership, the right people and a budget to adequately run youth boards or advisory councils in an efficient manner, in a way that is beneficial for the intended purpose and for the personal and professional development of the young person.

This is an amazing opportunity for young people and for the State. I support SB 1220 and am excited for the prospect of a youth advisory council for the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Delia Ulima





Honolulu Chinese Jaycees PO Box 957 Honolulu, HI 96808 Honoluluchinesejaycees@gmail.com

February 4, 2017

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1220 Relating to the Establishment of a Youth Advisory Commission to Advise the Governor and State Legislature on Issues Important to Young People

Dear Chair Green and Vice Chair Chang,

The Honolulu Chinese Jaycees writes in strong support of Senate Bill 1220.

The Honolulu Chinese Jaycees (HCJ), founded in 1953, is a leadership and service projected-oriented organization that consists of men and women between the ages of 18- 40 who are committed to creating positive change in the community. Members come from many cultural and professional backgrounds to develop their leadership skills by participating in professional programs and assisting with community service projects.

As a young professional organization, we recognize the importance of strengthening youth participation in the policy-making process of government. By engendering civic engagement among the youth, we create a pathway for young individuals to become outstanding active citizens in their community for the rest of their lives. Creation of a youth advisory commission will allow young people to make concerted efforts in identifying and building a network of supporters to advocate for key legislative priorities and needs that affect the youth population. The San Francisco Youth Commission, in which this proposed measure is modeled after, focuses on issues such as youth justice, public health, recreation, housing and homelessness, and education.

For these aforementioned reasons, the Honolulu Chinese Jaycees strongly supports the creation of a youth advisory commission, to advise the governor and state legislature in policies pertaining to children and youth, for the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Sarah Young
President of Honolulu Chinese Jaycees

Testimony for SB1220

Aloha, and good afternoon members of the committee. My name is Jun Shin, and I am currently a senior in high school. Before I begin, I would first like thank you for this opportunity to be excused from school at an earlier time. As a young person involved in the political process in both the Democratic Party of Hawaii and the progressive 'Justice or Bust' organization known as the Young Progressives Demanding Action or YPDA, I sit here in support of SB1220. Honorable senators, we young people are in need of a voice, we young people are in need of a platform for us to demand action. In a democracy, our age should not prevent us from still having a say in what goes on in our State, because even if we cannot vote yet, the decisions made here in this building still have an impact in our everyday lives. This advisory commission, filled with young people from all over Hawaii, will truly begin the process of bringing young people into politics as now, we will know that you, our elected representatives, are truly ready to listen and willing to form a partnership to insure that the future of Hawaii will be in the hands of both the old, as well as the young, and our voices will truly impact the daily workings in government and insure that our future is in safe hands. I love politics and I myself want to run for office one day to help my community, but that is not the mindset of many of the young people of Hawaii, and I see that in my daily conversations with both friends and acquaintances. So not only to show that young people's voices will be heard, but to help make politics more approachable, impactful, and learnable instead of something boring, untrustworthy, or irrelevant in the eyes of my brothers and sisters, SB1220 is a legislation that definitely should succeed for the future of democracy. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 9:10 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1220 on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM

SB1220

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HMS on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Bickel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: As a teacher for almost thirty years, I have seen youth and their problems. Youth input can be so valuable in shaping public policy. I am reminded of the time I was on the Ewa Neighborhood Board. The City enlisted youth to help in the design of a skateboard facility. It was highly used and kept kids from other troublesome activities because it was designed with young people in mind. I am sure other areas of public policy can also be more effective for youth if youth are involved in the planning. This bill would help make that happen.

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February 5, 2017

TO: Chair Josh Green and Members of the Human Services Committee

FROM: Christina Kaleiwahea, Student Representative of the Leeward Community College Sustainability Committee

SUBJECT: Support for SB1220

Dear Senator Green,

Please consider supporting the adoption of a youth advisory commission. As Hawai'i is third in the nation for green job growth ([DBEDT Energy Update](#)), the youth advisory commission serves as a bridge between the leaders of today and tomorrow, who will develop the local workforce needed to meet Hawai'i's clean energy initiative goals. I currently work at the [Energy Exceleator](#), a startup incubator for clean tech companies. I also started a bioconversion program at Leeward Community College, which has the campus on track to reach its waste reduction goals as required by the [University of Hawai'i Executive Policy on Sustainability](#). My contributions were made possible by institutional level mentorship, which is why I urge you to support the formation of a youth advisory commission.

[Kupu](#), a non-profit that focuses on youth development in areas of sustainability, gave me a pipeline into the clean energy sector here in Hawai'i. I now work in marketing and analysis for Stem, an intelligent battery storage company and member of the Energy Exceleator. A majority of the Energy Exceleator companies and its employees are not from Hawai'i. I can see how Kupu's program provided me early access and insight into industry, which is why I am one of the only local employees in the organization. The youth advisory commission will provide the same catalyst for growth for its young members.

As a student at Leeward CC, I was elected to represent the ~6,000 enrolled students in the sustainability committee consisting of faculty and heads of administration. This was one of my first exposures to institutional operations and politics. Balancing needs of different stakeholders and finding areas of alignment allowed me to successfully obtain the UH President's Green Initiative Award and matching grant funds from various other sources. The grant allowed my (student) team to develop a system to collect all the campus' food and paper waste and convert it into fuel and fertilizer. Leeward CC will soon satisfy its requirement to track and reduce solid waste because of the support of student leadership.

Please use these as examples of similar impact that can come from a youth advisory commission. The youth need your 'ike (knowledge) to guide us into service of our community.

Ke aloha nō,

Christina Kaleiwahea
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808.781.4832
98-120 Lipoal Pl Apt 404 Aiea, HI 96701

Senator Josh Green
Senate Committee on Human Services

Kaneala Peters-Clark
87-273 Auyong Hmstd. Rd. Waianae, HI 96792

February 6th, 2017

Aloha Senators,
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB1220 today.

As a James Campbell High School Junior and an advocate in my community, this bill impacts my peers lives and my life. I have been fighting to create a Youth Commission from the County level and now here at the State's Capitol. In order for our democracy to grow we need to think about the future of our democracy, the Keiki.

Like Senator Chang said, 16 year olds can drive, they can get married, they can work and they can pay taxes, but they cannot vote. An old washington saying is, if you're not at the table you're on the menu. I cannot vote but it hasn't stopped me from letting my voice be heard. I have been to neighborhood board meetings, political parties, political conferences and I have been to the state capitol more times then any of my peers put together.

Imagine, will you be around when the Rail project needs to be upgraded, when the freeway has to be replaced or when there is so much people in Hawaii that we have to change ordinances in order for houses to hold more people than it should? The decisions you make today affect your Keiki, your nephew who's in kindergarten or your niece who's in pre-school, they're the ones who will be impacted by your vote to increase the number of affordable housing or your vote on medical marijuana.

On february 13th I will be attending the Secondary Student Conference where 100 high school students will come together at the State Capitol and discuss issues that impact their lives. I hope to see you there, as I know my Elected officials, who know me very well, will be there. What 17 year old kid knows their elected officials name and their staffers by heart? Well I do and it has helped me to push for A/C in my high school and much more.

We need to increase Voter turnout, get youth more active in the governmental process because if they are uneducated, they will vote for people who will not keep their constituents in mind when they walk onto the floor of the Senate or House and vote on a bill that would raise taxes or extend the GE tax.

This Youth Commission will bring youth closer to the governmental process. We are not asking you to give us voting power, trust me, but we are asking you to let our voices be heard. Yes we can let our voices be heard if we go to the capitol and testify or speak at our respective neighborhood board, but if you were in our shoes, would you, a 16 year old, actually stand in front of men and women 3 times your age and testify? I don't think so.

Very truly yours,

Kaneala Peters-Clark
James Campbell High School Student

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Housing and Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing and Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1220
Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I support S.B. 1220. Please consider the following:

- Municipal and state governments have found ways of including youth in their governance, notably, San Francisco. While novel for Hawaii this idea is established and tested.
- Inclusionary government in regards to youth outreach and engagement expands the perspective of policymakers in a beneficial way. Many of government's most challenging problems are being adjudicated by people who, by virtue of age alone, will not experience the full ramifications. Youth often have much to contribute on matters from climate change to education and labor.
- Honolulu suffers both from a youth drain and a brain drain. As one of the oldest cities in the country, we perennially lose high school and college graduates to mainland cities. This bill is one step in transforming this reality into a better Hawaii. We must retain and draw young people who will dedicate themselves to public participation in government.

Consequently, this measure is forward-thinking and reasonable. Please vote in favor and continue to seek out ways to empower the youth of our state.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dylan P. Armstrong

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 8:26 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: csantoma@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1220 on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM

SB1220

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for HMS on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chris Santomauro | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: My name is Chris Santomauro and I am writing in support of SB 1220. I am a teacher in the Hawaii public schools, having taught in elementary and high schools. I know that young people in Hawaii often feel disconnected to what is happening around them, and need more venues to engage with and stand up for their ideals and see that they have the power to create change. Other cities have already implemented youth commissions to success and this would be one additional venue that will help support youth voice in civic action. I strongly support the establishment of the Youth Commission.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:27 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: rebecca.ji.soon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1220 on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM

SB1220

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HMS on Feb 6, 2017 15:10PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Soon | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha nui e Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Human Services, I write today in strong support of SB1220 and the creation of a Youth Commission. This is a great opportunity to increase civic engagement among our youth and provide our next generation of leadership a voice in the policy priorities that will shape their Hawai'i. Although youth are not able to vote, they have demonstrated exceptional depth and capacity for making positive change. A Commission role would allow members and the youth groups they work with to learn how to be effective within the political process at a much earlier age. For these reasons, I encourage your committee to support the establishment of a Youth Commission that helps to empower keiki voices for years to come. Mahalo.

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