

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
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1466 HD1, Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

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. 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.



February 28, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

**SUPPORT FOR HB1466 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 Hawai'i

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HB1466 HD1 “Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission”, which would “establish a Youth Advisory Commission within the Office of Youth Services to advise the Governor and Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets relating to youth.” **HB1466 HD1 is consistent with DPH’s 2017 legislative priorities to address issues related to 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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

1:00 pm

Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 1466 HD1 - YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION IN OYS

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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 approximately 1,700 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of HB 1466 HD1 that establishes a youth advisory commission within the office of youth services to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth.

We see this as an important way to engage a broad cross-section of our youth, especially those who have been involved with the juvenile justice system, have been run-aways, homeless and/or in foster care. Their experiences can help frame policy issues that would be so much better informed if we involved the youth who have been through these struggles.

THE BENEFITS OF INVOLVING YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING¹

Recognizing and involving youth in a community’s decision-making processes is about more than engaging young people for the sake of inclusivity. It’s about recognizing the measurable benefits youth offer to organizations and whole communities.

¹ The Benefits of Involving Youth in Decision-making.

<http://www.peernetbc.com/benefits-of-involving-youth-in-decision-making>

Youth need meaning, control and connectedness to thrive in an adult-youth partnership. Youth must feel like they are involved in something important, have a valued say in what happens and the opportunity to work with other youth and adults in the community.

How adults benefit from involving youth in decision-making:

- Adults begin to see youth as contributors, and stereotypes are broken down.
- Adult levels of commitment, attachment and energy for an organization often increase when they gain an opportunity to work with youth.
- Adults gain a better understanding of young people; a fresh perspective; a bridge to other youth; enthusiasm, creativity, flexibility and pro-activeness.

How organizations and communities benefit from involving youth in decision-making:

- Involving youth is a human rights issue! Involving young people fulfills the right to be involved in decision-making and recognizes full citizenship.
- Engaging youth encourages young people to become active community members who will be more likely to vote and be engaged in the democratic process.
- Young people are given the opportunity to assume leadership roles and gain skills and practical experience leading to more effective decision-making in the future.
- Granting youth control over decisions affecting their lives builds capacity in young people to take ownership for their lives and their communities.

This Commission is a great way to engage our children and youth in civic issues and to help them understand the broader reach of policymaking.

We urge the committee to pass this bill and help our children and youth become active participants in civic issues. These are our future leaders and our greatest treasures!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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 27, 2017

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

Testimony in Support of HB 1466 HD1 Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1466 HD1 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.

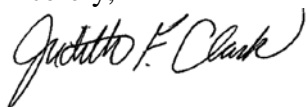
HYSN recommends the following amendments to the bill, which have already been incorporated into SB 1220 Relating to Youth:

1. Inserting a preamble that discusses the importance of youth participation in public policymaking;
2. Specifying that one member appointed by the Governor to the Youth Advisory Commission must be a previous recipient of youth services;
3. Expanding the list of criteria to be considered by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Executive Director

4. Allowing the Youth Advisory Commission members to invite other individuals to participate in commission activities as temporary, nonvoting members;
5. Inserting language that appropriates an unspecified amount for the hiring of one staff position to administer the Youth Advisory Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

CHAIR SYLVIA LUKE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HB 1466: Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 @ 1:00 P.M.

Written Testimony by
Richard Mizusawa, M.Ed.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Richard Mizusawa and I **strongly support HB 1466**, which establishes a youth advisory commission within the office of youth services to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth. I have been a life-long resident of the State of Hawai‘i, attending public schools from Pre-Kindergarten to recently receiving my Master of Education degree at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. According to this bill, I am also considered part of Hawai‘i’s youth at 24 years old.

It is a passion of mine to not only educate our youth on important matters that will impact their futures, but to develop them as leaders who will collectively work towards the progression and advance of a wide spectrum of issues our state is facing. Ever since high school, I have been involved in student government and extracurricular activities that have allowed me to grow as a leader and be the youth voice in numerous capacities, including that of serving as my high school’s Class of 2010 Junior and Senior Class President (2008-09), President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (2012-14), Treasurer of the Graduate Student Organization (2015-16), and as a member of the Hawai‘i Future Caucus since 2014. No where else in the state is there commission, board, or advisory group to my knowledge where our youth, including minors, can have a collective voice in the issues our Aloha State faces today. If passed, some of the appointed members may not even be eligible to vote, but this would give them, and all members of this proposed commission, that collective voice to be heard. They are the future leaders of Hawai‘i and I am confident that we all can attest to the importance of hearing all perspectives in our state government.

Although I support this measure fully, I have several comments and ask for your consideration of them as possible amendments to HB 1466:

- The governor, senate president, and speaker of the house each appoint five members to this commission, according to the current language of the bill. Although it is written that they “shall consider diverse cross section of socioeconomic statuses, genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and counties of residence when making their appointments,” I think it is also important to factor in that age should be one of the considerations in their decision-making. For example, each could appoint a variety of youth of different ages, but you may have more older youth vs. minors, potentially leaving out some representative age groups. The collaboration between the three

government leaders is not required, but I do believe in having language amended in this bill that ensures some level of equality between minors and young adults.

- The current bill calls for an annual election of a chairperson. To promote and support the development of more of the members, I also would ask that you consider adding in language that allows for the election of a vice chairperson and secretary.
- The proposed youth advisory commission, because of its composition of youth between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four, should be able to be advised by someone who can help answer questions they may have, provide suggestions on how to best function as a commission, and ensure that the commission is fulfilling its purpose. Although some will understand how organizations and teams work and function, some are still learning to become our future leaders and may need guidance and support to ensure their voice is heard. I also humbly ask that you consider adding in language that a designee from the office of youth services serve as advisor to the youth advisory commission.

As mentioned, my above comments and suggestions are purely so. I would love to see this youth advisory board enacted and, with your consideration of the above, advance any that you believe will produce the most success out of this commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I humbly ask for your support to pass HB 1466.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Mizusawa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Mizusawa, M.Ed.
ramizusawa@gmail.com

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM*

HB1466

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:

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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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: HB1466 HD1 Establish a Youth Advisory Commission in the Office of Youth Svcs **Strong Support**

TO: House Finance Committee Hearing

Aloha House Representatives Luke, Cullen and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1466 HD1 to establish a Youth Advisory Commission within the Office of Youth Services. Rainbow Family 808 is a support and resource organization that focuses on reaching out to all families in love, support and advocacy, for the Homeless especially our Homeless Youth.

Rainbow Family 808 asks that HB 1466 HD1 be passed with sufficient funds to benefit our population of Under Served Youth. 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 Youthful Population including the Homeless Youth and HB1466 HD1 is any important step forward. It is how we care for our Youth that defines our humanity and our Aloha.

Please pass HB 1644 HD1 with sufficient funding to reach our ALL our Youth in a manner that is respectfully in keeping with the Aloha State that we strive to be. This funding is an investment of the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
President and Co-Founder

House Committee on Finance
March 1, 2017 at 1:00PM
State Capitol Conference Room 308
HB1466, HD1

LATE

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1466

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I write today in strong support of HB1466 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 for the opportunity to share mana'ō on this important issue,



Rebecca Justine 'Iolani Soon

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:53 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: kaneala.peters@gmail.com
 Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM*

HB1466

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
Kaneala Peters-Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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