

# **HB1466 HD1**

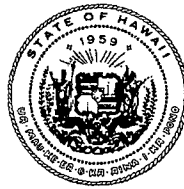
Measure Title: RELATING TO A YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Report Title: Youth Advisory Commission; Office of Youth Services

Description: Establishes 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)

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): TODD, KEOHOKALOLE, LOPRESTI, MCKELVEY, MORIKAWA



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

March 16, 2017

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

**FROM:** Merton Chinen, Executive Director

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

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 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](mailto: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

March 14, 2017

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

## **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.

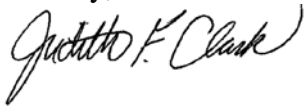
HYSN recommends incorporating the amendments that this committee made to SB 1220 Relating to Youth into this bill including:

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



## COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2017

2:50 pm

Room 016

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

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang 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 that establishes a youth advisory commission within the office of youth services to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth.

We respectfully ask that the committee consider adding language that ensures that some of the youth have experience in the juvenile justice and/or foster care systems to provide a broader perspective for policymakers on the needs of our youth.

We see this Commission 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 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-MAKING<sup>1</sup>

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.

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.

## ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTIONS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Benefits of Involving Youth in Decision-making.

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

A very powerful study was recently released by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice<sup>2</sup> that listed Principles for Change.

“A young person’s involvement with the justice system can increase their likelihood of later experiencing homelessness for many reasons, including the fact that educational disruptions and juvenile delinquency records can make it harder to obtain employment. Youth experiencing homelessness may also be swept into the juvenile justice system through laws that prohibit simply being in public spaces, such as juvenile curfews, or anti-sitting or sleeping ordinances. Both juvenile justice involvement and youth homelessness have long-term negative consequences.

The Principles in Part I of this document provide a roadmap for communities to help young people avoid experiencing juvenile justice system involvement and/or youth homelessness. This includes doing the following:

Principle 1: Ensure that the laws and policies in your jurisdiction do not lead youth experiencing homelessness to be cited, arrested, or charged for survival acts or “quality of life” offenses.

Principle 2: Ensure that young people are diverted from juvenile justice system involvement whenever possible, and that any diversion programs or services are appropriately tailored to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Principle 3: When juvenile justice system involvement cannot be avoided, ensure that comprehensive transition planning begins immediately after – and continues throughout – a youth’s confinement or probation supervision.

Principle 4: Ensure your community has both long- and short-term safe housing options available for youth who are, or have been, involved with the juvenile justice system.

Principle 5: Ensure your community provides youth and their families with related services and supports that can help them obtain and keep safe and stable housing.

Principle 6: Ensure that youth, and their families, are not kicked out of their homes or denied housing because the youth have been arrested or adjudicated for a delinquency offense.

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<sup>2</sup> ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTIONS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: PRINCIPLES FOR CHANGE <http://juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/FINAL%20Principles%20.pdf>

Principle 7: Ensure youth help lead and shape the identification and implementation of policy and practice solutions to address the connections between juvenile justice and youth homelessness.

Principle 8: Ensure efforts prioritize lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth, gender non-conforming (GNC) youth, youth of color, and other over-represented populations to address and reduce the disproportionalities that exist in the populations of youth experiencing homelessness and/or involved with the juvenile justice system.

Principle 9: Ensure that law enforcement, courts, schools, and service providers employ gender-responsive and age- and culturally-appropriate trauma-informed responses when working with youth.

Principle 10: Undertake and fund research to help better understand the issue of youth homelessness and identify solutions.

Part II of this document includes specific resources and examples to guide communities as they work to put Principles for Change into practice. We also encourage you to engage with the Collaborating for Change project at [www.juvjustice.org/homelessness](http://www.juvjustice.org/homelessness) as we continue to develop new resources on these issues."

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!

Mahlo for hearing this important bill. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.





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March 15, 2017

Testimony in strong support of HB 1466

The Hawaii Chapter of the Young Progressive Demanders Action, representing nearly 600 registered members, supports this important bill to establish a youth advisory commission within the office of youth services to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth.

YPDA supports the creation of a commission that is comprised entirely of youth to work on issues and policies to improve their lives. We believe this is crucial to empowering youth and their communities to come up with creative solutions to address chronic poverty, houselessness, drug abuse and crime.

The research the Community Alliance on Prisons has done on youth justice shows that having their voices and experiences to inform public policy leads to much better policymaking. Engaging our youth in civic matters makes great citizens and future leaders.

Seante Committee on Human Services  
March 17, 2017 at 2:50PM  
State Capitol Conference Room 016  
HB1466, HD1

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1466

Aloha e Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

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

CHAIR JOSH GREEN  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1466 HD1: Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Wednesday, March 17, 2017 @ 2:50 P.M.

Written Testimony by  
Richard Mizusawa, M.Ed.

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Chag and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

My name is Richard Mizusawa and I **strongly support HB 1466 HD1**, 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. Nowhere 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 HD1:

- 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 commission 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 HD1.

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

Testimony HB1466

RELATING TO YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION STRONG SUPPORT HB 1466

I speak in strong support of HB1466 because there is nothing like this commission in existence today. All other types of youth outreach groups are not geared toward having the best representation of the youth even with all their efforts. Representation of those that are not the most successful or most likely to succeed but those of a typical youth not thinking about college not thinking about resumes.

We must get youth from Waianae to Hawaii Kai on the Youth Commission, again not just the college and university bound youths but also youths who have no direction and, all points in between. Having gone to San Francisco and through my travels I had the opportunity to see the youth commission and how it operates. It left me with a sense that we in Hawaii should not only enact a youth commission at the state level but foster in environment where youth voices are not only heard but policies that affect youth are given more than just a token assessment.

We must support programs that teach youth who are not fully inclined to be part of the political process but those that will just be registered voters without any future political ambitions. In my Neighborhood Board District, we have a numbers or youth that are between the ages of 0-17 we are number 3 in urban Honolulu.

With an approximate total population of 8,100 youths. We must include these voices in any policies that may have a direct and indirect effect on youths within Hawaii.

Ken Farm  
Neighborhood Board Member at Large  
Kalihi-Palma No 15

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM\*

**HB1466**

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	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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I support HB 1466 HD1 which establishes a youth advisory commission to advise the governor and legislature on issues relating to youth. Creating such a commission will enable youth to have their voices heard and result in better policy-making in the State of Hawaii. Engaging our youth in civic matters is a good way to develop them into better citizens and future leaders in our community.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Nathan Yuen  
91-23 Hanpaouli Cir #29T  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:17 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM\*

**HB1466**

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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Testimony HB1466

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With an approximate total population of 8,100 youths. We must include these voices in any policies that may have a direct and indirect effect on youths within Hawaii.

Ken Farm  
Neighborhood Board Member at Large  
Kalihi-Palma No 15

Representative Dee Morikawa  
House Committee on Human Services

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

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Aloha Senators,  
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB1466 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.

I'd like to talk about the different Commissions and boards that Office of Youth Services(OYS) and Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) have mentioned in their testimony and other boards and commissions I found while doing extensive research.

With the Informational 2 page handout I will be giving to you at the hearing will go in further detail. However the main difference from the Youth Commission to the programs that OYS and HYSN explained in previous testimony, NO board or commission covers both ALL aspects of Hawaii, not just foster youth or juvenile youth and also has a main goal to promote legislation and advise the Governor and Legislature on issues that impact me and my fellow youth.

Like Senator Chang once 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.

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 favor Churches.

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