

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 6, 2017

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

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

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

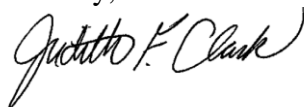
The children and youth of Hawaii are our future. The way we treat them today, the opportunities we provide them and the investments we make in their development will influence the kind of adults they will become.

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

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 7:21 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mlopes@hscadv.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marci Lopes	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

9:00 am

Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 1466 - YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION IN OYS

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd 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 1,400 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 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 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.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:40 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:58 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 11:40 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: As a former neighborhood board chair, I know that we designed better park facilities when we consulted youth. They are the most impacted by our policies in the long run. This commission would help include them.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:02 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: aktcpipi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Tam	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:25 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Date: February 8, 2017

To: Chair Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair Chris Todd, and other House Committee on Human Services Members

From: Mark Yamakawa
HDS President & CEO

Subject: HDS Testimony on HB 843 (Relating to Dental Health)

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and other Human Service Committee members. HDS is glad to provide this testimony to support the discussion on this important oral health issue to help the Committee make informed policy decisions.

HDS Position:

HDS is in favor of HB 843 because it will broaden the range of dental services available for adults eligible for Medicaid. It will ensure more Hawaii residents, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to quality oral health care.

- **Inherent Inequity in Plan Design**

Medicaid currently covers a broad range of services for children in our state; however, Medicaid does not offer the same services for adults. As a dental benefits plan and Medicaid administrator, we continue to hear concerns about the inherent inequity in plan design that makes adults ineligible for basic oral health services. Currently, Medicaid will cover extractions for adults, but does not cover preventive care or restorative treatment. The only option for adults with a toothache on a Medicaid plan is for a dentist to pull out their tooth. This clearly is not the best practice for oral health care.

- **The Link between Oral Health and Overall Health**

HDS places a strong emphasis on preventive oral health care education and focuses on the need for early diagnosis and intervention to preempt the need for costly emergency care. HDS also documents studies backed by the American Dental Association that show the link between oral health and overall health. When Medicaid-eligible adults can receive appropriate dental care, this will correspondingly improve their overall health, resulting in more productive individuals and reduced medical costs for the State of Hawaii.

- **Ancillary Benefits**

Hawaii ranks at the bottom of the nation for oral health among children, with significant oral health disparities by income, as well as by race/ethnicity in Hawaii, according to the Hawaii Smiles Oral Health Surveillance Report conducted by the Hawaii Department of Health. Children model their health habits after their parents. If parents cannot go to the dentist to receive basic care, these same health habits will be passed on to their children, resulting in generational oral health degradation.

This change in policy and practice would change the course of Hawaii's oral health trajectory for underserved populations, now and for future generations. Mahalo.

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:08 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

CHAIR DEE MORIKAWA
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

LATE

HB 1466: Relating to a Youth Advisory Commission

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 @ 9:00 A.M.

Written Testimony by
Richard Mizusawa, M.Ed.

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

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

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:03 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: kaneala.peters@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1466 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1466

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:35 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tulsigreenlee@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB843

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov