



# Adult Friends for Youth

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Submitted to:

SENATE COMMITTEE on HUMAN SERVICES:

Senator Josh Green, Chair

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Submitted by

Tevita Williams

Redirectional Specialist

Adult Friends for Youth

**Subject: Support for HB 693 HD 1, Relating to Programs and High Risk Youth**

For the past 30 years, Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) has been an intricate force in tackling youth violence in Hawaii, particularly delinquent youth associated with being high risk. As a current staff member of AFY, I am testifying in strong support of HB 693 HD 1 Relating to Programs and High Risk Youth, which will allow organizations like ours to continue to take on the difficult task of reaching out to these youths who are the most at-risk. It will also allow us to provide them opportunities to develop essential skills needed to become productive and contributing members of society. In my three years at AFY, I have been directly involved with redirecting deconstructing behaviors of youth from deferent demographics by promoting healthy lifestyles and personal well-being. AFY's redirecting and empowering the lives of these youth will not only better these individuals, but the communities these individuals come from as well. Again, with recommendations of amendments submitted by staff of Adult Friends for Youth, I strongly support HB 693 HD 1 Relating to Programs and High Risk Youth and hope you will also see the significance of how this Bill will help to combat violence among youth and effectively promote community and school safety for all. Thank you very much for your time and presence.