

HB844 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO YOUTH.

Report Title: Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; At-Risk Youth; Coordinator Position; Appropriation

Description: Requires the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program in partnership with private organizations to coordinate a network that youth can access for safety and where youth can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program Coordinator position. Appropriates funds. (HB844 HD1)

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): GATES, BELATTI, BROWER, CREAGAN, EVANS, HAR, HOLT, KEOHOKALOLE, C. LEE, LOPRESTI, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, OHNO, OSHIRO, TODD, WOODSON, Johanson, Quinlan, San Buenaventura



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 844 HD1, Relating to Youth**

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. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through a continuum of care system in order to engage in needed services, including outreach and advocacy, and 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. The measure would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth. OYS also has the following comments:

- Hawaii Revised Statute §346 –17.6 includes a listing of services related to no cost emergency shelters to which a minor may consent given several contingencies, and if the services to be provided are deemed appropriate by the provider. We recommend similar language be included in this bill to both clarify and ensure that a minor can consent to the services that would be provided under this bill.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to require the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program in partnership with private organizations to coordinate a network that youth can access for safety and where youth can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program Coordinator position and appropriates funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2017 at 2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

Judge R. Mark Browning
Senior Family Judge and Deputy Chief Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 844, H.D.1, Relating to Youth.

Purpose: Requires OYS to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports this bill that will offer a much needed service to homeless youth and that may be a pivotal moment for a youth to find a way back to healthy, life-affirming choices.

In the experience of the family court, young people on the streets are not usually there as a result of individual willful rebellion or bad intent. Some of these kids leave their families as a result of trauma experienced outside of the home or exposure to negative influences. Some of these kids come from families suffering from generations of dysfunction, violence, and substance abuse. This bill, like other Safe Places throughout the country will “broker” services to these young people non-judgmentally and with kindness and acceptance. The Office of Youth Services (OYS) is particularly well suited to administer such a program. It is, of course, crucial that the OYS receive adequate funding to implement the vision of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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'ola Na Pua

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 844 HD1 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1281 HD1 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the October 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012, 2013, and 2014 indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network.

It takes a 'Ohana to raise a child and the Safe Places Network will expand our children's 'ohana through caring neighbors in our communities.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address such issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble and avoid unnecessary arrests for status offenses.

While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

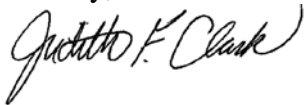
The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation, notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

After the immediate crisis response, youth-serving agencies will help families resolve the issues that led the youth to seek help from a Safe Place site.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang and members,

This measure to protect homeless, vulnerable youth is long overdue. The Coalition has always supported the creation of safe havens for youth who are risk of being victims of the street, with no place to go. Please pass this bill

Mahalo,

Ann S Freed, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition
HB844 safe spaces for youth - Support

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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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 844 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.

HB 844 HD1 requires the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program in partnership with private organizations to coordinate a network that youth can access for safety and where youth can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services and appropriates funds to establish a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program Coordinator position.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure.

A review of the National Safe Place website¹ and conversations with other youth advocates have emphasized the importance of having a network of safe places for youth needing immediate assistance.

¹ National Safe Place <http://nationalsafeplace.org/>

Here is how the National Safe Place website defines the need:

What is Safe Place?

Safe Place is a national youth outreach and prevention program for young people in need of immediate help and safety. As a community-based program, Safe Place designates businesses and organizations as Safe Place locations, making help readily available to youth in communities across the country. Locations include: libraries, YMCA's fire stations, public buses, various businesses, and social service facilities.

The National Safe Place Network mission is: *"Ensuring an effective system of response for youth in crisis through public and private partnerships at a local, state and national level."* The Network envisions a world where all youth are safe and valued and where youth

- are capable of initiating the helping process and taking an active role in creating a healthier living situation.
- are more likely to seek help in places that are familiar, safe and identified by a standard, recognizable logo.
- have access to services on a nondiscriminatory basis.

I recently facilitated a discussion panel after the film, "They Call Us Monsters" about youth in the California Justice System who committed serious crimes. Judge Browning was on the panel and the first reaction he relayed to the audience was, "These are NOT our kids." He spoke about understanding the trauma that many of these youth suffer, of treating our youth with love and kindness and compassion.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation, notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

This bill, like other Safe Places throughout the country will "broker" services to these young people nonjudgmentally and with kindness and acceptance. Let's help our youth reach their highest and best potential by honoring their stories, valuing their ideas and loving them as our greatest treasures!

We urge the committee to pass this important bill and champion our youth! Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:05 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB844

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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March 15, 2017

Testimony in strong support of HB 844

The Hawaii Chapter of the Young Progressive Demanding Action, representing nearly 600 registered members, supports this important bill to establish a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program coordinator position.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble with the law and will provide early intervention that avoids involvement with the juvenile justice, child welfare systems and helps youth and families resolve their issues. The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency.

Preventing youth from entering into the justice system has been shown to greatly reduce the likelihood of future criminal activity, keeping communities in tact and saving taxpayers and the state massive amounts of money in the long run.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:07 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB844

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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I support HB 844 HD1 which appropriates funds to the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a program where youth can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and other social services. The program aims to provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble with the law. Please pass this bill so we can intervene early on to steer youth away from a destructive path to be contributing members of society.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

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

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair,
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair,
and members of the Human Services Committee

From: Tami Yamashita,
tyamashi@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of HB 844 HD1, Relating to Youth
Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:50 pm, Conference 016

Thank you for hearing HB 844 HD1, which requires the office of youth services to organize a two-year safe places pilot program in partnership with private organizations for at-risk youth in Hawaii. I strongly support this measure because it will help to service the needs of our future generation so as to reduce crime, suicide, homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and other forms of trauma in our communities.

From my experience working with at-risk youth in rural settings such as Hakipu'u and Moloka'i, I have seen firsthand the trials and tribulations that the youth in our communities face. Nine out of ten times, the youth I worked with were suffering from problems at home. Without a safe place for these children to rely on for stability, recuperation, and support, they ended up using substances to cope, living on the streets, and ultimately putting themselves in dangerous and life-threatening situations.

It is extremely vital for at-risk youth to have access to programs and services that provide them with a place of safety. It is our responsibility to give our youth as many opportunities we can to grow, develop, and cultivate a strong sense of self so that they can be outstanding citizens of our communities. Our future depends on them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:16 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB844 on Mar 17, 2017 14:50PM*

HB844

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

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