



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

January 26, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB 2008– RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH**

Hearing: Friday, January 26, 2018, 3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request that includes appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (DOH) for \$1.75 million for homeless outreach and \$800,000 for outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless persons with severe substance use disorders.

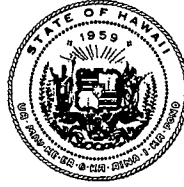
**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$250,000 to DHS for outreach, shelter, and services for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Homeless outreach is a critical component of the State's framework to address homelessness, and is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households in the community and to build rapport that connects individuals and families to housing and services, such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, or shelter. Outreach workers provide a comprehensive array of services that include completing applications for housing and services, housing search, and obtaining identification and other necessary documents. Without the assistance of homeless

outreach, many homeless individuals are unable to access care and unable to navigate Hawaii's system of homeless services.

In addition to homeless outreach services funded by DHS, DOH requests funding in the Executive Budget for targeted substance use treatment services for the unsheltered homeless population. These services are part of the State framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness. The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for outreach and substance use treatment, as well as addressing housing costs through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and the State Rent Supplement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**  
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 25, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: SB 2008, Relating to Homeless Youth**

Hearing: Friday, January 26, 2018, 3:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of the measure but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget. Outreach to youth experiencing homelessness is an important foundational activity in building a trusting relationship that would lead to better outcomes. The outreach and relationship building are especially critical for hard to reach and resistant youth, many who have suffered from trauma and/or other types of adverse childhood experiences. Unaccompanied homeless youth present complex risk factors that are very difficult to address; their journeys often continue through young adulthood, requiring an approach that is rooted in aloha, acceptance, trauma-informed and long-term advocacy.

OYS currently provides outreach and advocacy services, and emergency shelter services for youth experiencing, or at-risk for, homelessness through purchase of service contracts statewide. OYS has also introduced legislation, S.B. 2791 and H.B. 2364, to include a young adult definition that would broaden eligibility for homeless outreach and other services. Additional resources would bolster the continuum of care for this vulnerable population.

The Honorable Josh Green  
The Honorable Will Espero  
January 25, 2018  
Page 2 of 2

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the measure is to appropriate \$250,000 to DHS to provide outreach, shelter and services for unaccompanied homeless youth. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Housing

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The  
Queen's Health Systems

Date: January 25, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Human Services and Senate Committee on Housing Joint Hearing;  
Friday, January 26, 2018 at 3:30 PM in Room 16

Re: S.B. 2008, Relating to Homeless Youth

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am the Vice President for Government Relations and External Affairs for The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I appreciate the opportunity to provide support for the intent of S.B. 2008, Relating to Homeless Youth. Queen's believes any additional resources to increase capacity, improve coordination of services, and leverage current programs in the community for individuals experiencing homelessness would be a cost effective benefit to the state.

The mission of Queen's is to provide quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawai'i, which includes our most vulnerable and underserved patient populations like those experiencing homelessness. Hawaii has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation and Queen's provides the majority of medical care to our homeless population. Nearly 65% of all state homeless hospital encounters are at The Queen's Medical Center and in 2015, Queen's experienced a net loss of \$10.6 million for treating individuals experiencing homelessness.

The costs to the entire continuum of care—from hospitals to long-term care facilities to home-based services—of treating the homeless population are large and growing. There are still unmet needs for our homeless patients and while Queen's has been a leader in care coordination, we know that much more needs to be done within the community to close the gaps in services and supports for our homeless population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

# 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

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of  
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action  
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

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

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

January 23, 2018

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

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Housing

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2008 RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2008 Relating to Homeless Youth.

Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide runaway and homeless youth collaboration. For the past 15 years, our partners have encountered 700 – 800 unaccompanied youth annually. Thirty percent (30%) of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for running away from home, an average of more than 4,400 arrests each year.

What happens to youth who are living on the street? Nine out of ten (90%) have slept outdoors in a park, beach, sidewalk or car. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep. They lack adequate food, access to education, and have difficulty meeting health care needs.

Street outreach is the first step in helping youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

Shelter care gives youth a safe place to live temporarily, which they and their families receive counseling and work on plans for the future. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for the youth.

Current resources for outreach and shelter are insufficient and HYSN strongly agrees that more resources are needed.

HYSN has concerns about the language in the bill that discusses recent violent crimes in Waikiki that were allegedly committed by youth and the implication that the youth involved were homeless. According to Hale Kipa outreach staff, the youth arrested for the crimes are not homeless to the best of their knowledge.

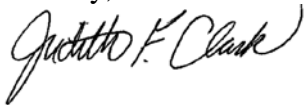
In actual fact, our homeless youth are the **victims, not the perpetrators, of violence**, abuse, and neglect. More than 40% of Oahu's homeless youth were forced to leave home by their families according to a 2016 survey of street youth in Honolulu. Two-fifths have spent time in foster care as a result of abuse and neglect. Thirty-eight percent (38%) reported being beaten or physically assaulted while living on the streets.

Hawaii's youth have a very low rate of violent crime compared to other states. A review of 10 years of data on juvenile crime and contact with the juvenile justice system showed that almost half of Hawaii's juvenile arrests were for status offenses, such as running away from home, curfew violations, and truancy from school (Umemoto, K et. al. Disproportionate Minority Contact with the Juvenile Justice System, 2012). From 2003 through 2012, Hawaii's juvenile arrests declined by 36.5% and confinements at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Center decreased by 51.1%. Only 5% of juvenile arrests involved weapons or intimidation. (Juvenile Delinquency Trends in Hawaii 2003 – 2012). Hawaii has the lowest rate of gun violence in the United States (U.S. Centers for Disease Control).

If we want Hawaii's youth to grow up safe, healthy and ready to succeed, we must reach out to our homeless adolescents and end youth homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**Testimony in Support of SB 2008, with Amendments  
Relating to Homeless Youth**

TO: Joint Senate Human Services and Housing Committees

FROM: Partners in Care; submitted by Advocacy Committee Chair Gavin Thornton

HEARING: Friday, January 26, 2018 at 3:30pm, Conference Room 016

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Dear Chair Green, Chair Espero, and members of the committees on Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2027, which appropriates \$250,000 in funding for the provision of homeless outreach, shelter, and services to unaccompanied minors. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 35 non-profit, homelessness providers—supports SB 2027, with amendments to correct potentially harmful misperceptions included in the rationale for the bill.

More than 700 youth live on our streets; many are sexually exploited, assaulted, arrested, lonely, and depressed, and unable to attend school. All have and/or are experiencing trauma. Nationally, almost half of homeless youth left home because of physical abuse, and 17% left because of sexual abuse; one third of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home; they are 16 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV/AIDS; and as many as 20% of homeless young women become pregnant.

Providing outreach and other services to these youth is absolutely critical to getting them off the streets quickly in order to minimize the lasting trauma they are likely to experience. Homeless outreach is typically the first contact that is made with a homeless youth to get him or her connected to services, shelter, treatment, or housing. Without these outreach services, none of the other options to get youth off the streets can occur.

PIC's one concern about the bill is that it appears to suggest that homeless youth are responsible for three recent violent crimes when there is no public information that the youth were homeless. There is much misinformation about homelessness, its causes, and the characteristics of the homeless population, which interferes with making effective, data-driven policy decisions. Additionally, such misinformation can result in dangerous stereotypes that lead to bias, discrimination, and even violence against people who are homeless. PIC recommends that the portions of the bill that speculate that homeless youth are responsible for violent crimes in Waikiki be removed, and perhaps replaced with more reliable information regarding the problems associated with youth homelessness. Indeed, there is research that suggests that some homeless youth may resort to illegal activity including stealing, being sold for sex, and selling drugs for survival.<sup>1</sup> For example, in a four-state Midwestern sample of 602 homeless youth, 23 percent reported stealing, 14 percent forced entry to a residence, 20 percent dealt drugs, and 2 percent engaged in prostitution. In the same study,

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<sup>1</sup> Paul A. Toro, Amy Dworsky, and Patrick J. Fowler, "Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and Intervention Approaches," *Toward Understanding Homelessness: The 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research* (2007), <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/homelessness/symposium07/toro/>.



18 percent of the boys and 12 percent of the girls reported that they had been beaten up more than once, 11 percent and 7 percent had been robbed more than once, and 11 percent and 4 percent had been assaulted with a weapon more than once.<sup>2</sup> A separate study found that 54.2% of homeless youth were victims of some kind of assault, battery, or theft while homeless.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, unaccompanied youth experience trauma and rape rates at two to three times higher than the general youth population.<sup>4</sup> While incidence of crime are location specific, and violent crime rates are particularly low in Hawai'i as compared to the rest of the country, research suggests that homeless youth are more likely to be the victims of violent crime rather than the perpetrators.

For these reasons, Partners In Care supports SB 2008, with amendments. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.

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<sup>2</sup> Whitbeck, L. B., Hoyt, D. R., Tyler, K. A., Ackley, K. A., & Fields, S. C. (1997b). Midwest Homeless and Runaway Adolescent Project: Summary Report to Participating Agencies. Unpublished manuscript, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University.

<sup>3</sup> Melissa Welch et al., Street Outreach Program Data Collection Project Overall Report 2013, University of Nebraska-Lincoln for HHS, ACF, ACYF, FYSB, October 2014; and Les Whitbeck et al., Street Outreach Program Data Collection Project Final Report, April 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Robertson, M. J., & Toro, P. A. (1998). Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy. Retrieved June 18, 2007 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>.

Contact for Advocacy Committee: Chair: Gavin Thornton, 808-369-2510, [picadvocacychair@gmail.com](mailto:picadvocacychair@gmail.com)

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 9:04:57 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Foster		Support	No

Comments:

We stand in strong support.

Mahalo,

Scott Foster, Chair

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i



## **Residential Youth Services & Empowerment**

January 25, 2018

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

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

**FROM:** Carla Houser, Executive Director  
Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

**SUBJECT:** SB 2008, Relating to Homeless Youth

Hearing: Friday, January 26, 2018, 3:30pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**POSITION:** RYSE supports the intent of this measure but would like to clarify that the recent “violent crimes” in Waikiki by “unattended minors roaming the streets at night” is not a true reflection of the hundreds of youth and young adults currently homeless on Oahu.

The 2017 point-in-time count reported 319 unaccompanied youth with 82% living unsheltered. Most of these unaccompanied (92%) were transition aged youth between 18-24. Among service users, unaccompanied youth ages 18-24 had the lowest rates of exits to permanent housing with only 26.1% successfully exiting compared to 49% of all homeless service users. (Yuan,S., Gauci, K.T 2017 Homeless Service Utilization Report: Hawaii 2016).

Many of these youth have suffered high rates of trauma both on the streets and prior to becoming homeless. The 2016 National Survey of Children's Health, indicated that 21.7% of children in Hawaii experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and this can have a devastating and long lasting effort on a youth's health and well-being. Trauma adversely affects self esteem, the ability to trust and relate to others or to manage a crisis. Because many homeless youth have experienced trauma, they become disconnected from family and social networks in their schools and communities.

Although youth between the ages of 18-24 can access adult shelter services, these resources are not always a good fit for the needs of these transition-aged youth. Some homeless youth have developed a mistrust of services following negative experiences with adults and/or fear social service agency notification or legal intervention. Survival needs such as finding food and safe shelter often take priority. Honolulu has adopted an approach of “compassionate disruption” to homelessness. As a result homeless youth have become widely dispersed around the island and more difficult to find. Although many of Oahu's youth gravitate towards urban Honolulu, point in time results, HMIS data and street outreach efforts shows that homeless youth are unsheltered or at risk of homelessness island wide.

Unlike other states with high rates of homelessness, Oahu has very few shelter options to offer homeless youth designed to meet their adolescent needs. For youth over 18, the current emergency shelter model offers only adult shelters, run by homeless adult service providers. Unaccompanied minors under the age of 18 are only offered an emergency shelter with the end result being re-unification with a potentially harmful family or entry into the child welfare system.

Oahu has only one homeless youth drop in center located in Waikiki that operates four days per week from 3-6pm. Homeless youth have lives with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Safety and the need for crisis interventions are often times most important in the night or early morning hours when they are most desperate and linkages to support systems are weak or non-existent. Off hours represent times when homeless youth are most in need of support and safety. Off hours is the time when there are the fewest eyes, businesses close, there is less street traffic and is therefore the time of greatest danger.

Additional resources would provide more drop-in centers, extended days and hours of service and street outreach teams with non-traditional service hours in key communities make access to services easier for at risk youth.

As a homeless youth service provider, I have watched a growing numbers of youth take care of themselves on the street at a very young age for far too long. It is time we step up our efforts to deal with the problem and capitalize on the strengths and resiliency of our young people. The idea is to intervene early, with services targeted toward the particular needs of young people — before homelessness becomes chronic, and it's much harder to move them off the street.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Carla Houser

Executive Director, RYSE

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 9:39:35 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	DPH Hawaiian Affairs Caucus	Support	No

Comments:

Housing for homeless youth may mitigate the adverse consequences of their being on the street, and should be coupled with programs to assure their attendance in school and/or referral to employment assistance programs.

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 3:32:30 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE**

**OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

AND COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

THE HAWAII STATE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Friday, January 26, 2018

3:30 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 16

**RE: Testimony in Support** of SB 2008, RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH

To the Honorable Josh Green, Chair; the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Human Services; and

To the Honorable Will Espero, Chair; the Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No.

2008, relating to appropriations for homeless youth. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2008 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2008, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to provide outreach to and shelter and services for homeless youth. Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless." (Platform of the DPH, Lines 355-358 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2008 appropriates funds to the department of human services to provide outreach to and shelter and services for homeless youth in furtherance of improving the health and well-being of Hawaii's homeless youth, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 6:07:03 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marci Lopes	Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	No

Comments:





January 23, 2018

Senate's Committees on Human Services and Senate's Committees on Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, January 26, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2008 – RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH**

Aloha Chairpersons Green and Espero, Vice Chairs Chang and Harimoto & fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT to Senate Bill 2008 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 2008 appropriates funds to the department of human services to provide outreach to and shelter and services for homeless youth.

Every day on the island of O'ahu alone over 125 unaccompanied minors sleep on the streets with no support from the government or their families. Where the LGBTQIA (L – Lesbian, G – Gay, B – Bisexual, T- Transgender, Q – Queer/Questioning, I – Intersex, A – Asexual/Ally) community accounts for 10% of the general population, 40% of the homeless unaccompanied minors identify as LGBTQIA. The 125 does not take into account the number of youth that have no permit home and are "couch surfing". We do not have any reliable numbers for the neighbor islands due to the total lack of any services available for homeless unaccompanied minors on the neighbor islands.

A majority of these LGBTQIA youths have either been thrown out of their homes when their parents or guardians find out their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression or they are running away from physical, mental and/or sexual abuse because they are members of the LGBTQIA community.

According to the US Department of HHS, 61.8% of all homeless youth reported depression, 71.7% reported experiencing major trauma such as physical or sexual abuse, 79.5% experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder for more than a month. These experiences will have lifelong negative impacts on the youth and may impede them from reaching their full potential. FYI - the State of Hawaii has no data on homeless youth as we have never studied the issue.

Hawaii's houseless population is a huge concern for the majority of Hawaii's residents and if we are ever going to end homelessness we need to address one of the major contributors to it and that is homeless unaccompanied minors. Because houseless minors become houseless adults because it is very hard to escape the grip of homelessness especially for minors who have no support from the government or non-profits.

There are no dedicated services for unaccompanied houseless minors under the age of 18 except YO! (Youth Outreach) which is a drop-in center in Waikiki that is open only 4 days a week, 3 hours a day. We can and must do better. By passing this bill with the funding intact is a step in the right direction.

Thank you, Chair and Members of the Committee, for your thoughtful consideration of SB 2008 and hopefully your full support.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
LGBT Caucus for the DPH



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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Friday, January 26, 2018, 3:30 PM, Conference room 016  
SB 2008 Relating to Homeless Youth

**TESTIMONY**

Rosemarie Muller, President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Committee on Human Services Chair Green; Committee on Housing Chair Espero; and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2008 that appropriates funds to the department of human services to provide outreach to and shelter and services for homeless youth.**

We agree that addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach using intervention targeted to the particular characteristics of the population being served. We further agree that while increased enforcement of runaways and curfew violations may solve some issues, many homeless youths do not have a safe place to which to return and outreach services cannot reach homeless youth if they are displaced.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Guy Archer	Jan Lubin	Cameron Sato	PO. Box 23404
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Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer	Gloria Borland	Stephen O'Harrow	Emmanuel Zibakalam	Hawai'i 96823
Karin Gill, Secretary	Chuck Huxel			

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January 24 , 2018

TO: Honorable Chairs Green and Espero and Members of HMS and HOU Committees

RE: SB 2008 RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH.

Support for hearing on Jan 26

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 2008 to provide outreach to and shelter and services for homeless youth. A number of our members and board are educators. We know the problems some kids face. Extreme circumstances often push youth to the streets where they face many dangers. Providing for and protecting these youth today will prevent greater and more expensive problems down the road. Section 1 of the bill adds facts to the argument. Are only quibble with the bill is to doubt that \$250,000 is enough.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel  
President

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 2:59:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua Kay		Support	No

Comments:

In support of SB2008. Unaccompanied homeless youth need shelter and social services. Waikiki Health's Youth Outreach program, along with volunteer organizations, can only do so much. These young people should not be required to have parental consent in order to receive services.

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 11:14:59 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 8:09:06 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Brasher		Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2008. While all homeless need services to meet their survival and rehabilitation needs, youth are far more vulnerable, less likely than adults to seek or find help, and are in greater danger of exploitation and harm. This bill will go a long way in meeting those needs for our community's children, when they need it most. Please support and pass this bill for our youth and our future.

Dr. Mark Brasher

Hawaii Middle School teacher 1998 to present

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 8:25:33 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Russell F. Jones		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 9:52:11 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Yuen		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2008 which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to provide shelter and services to homeless youth. Homeless youth are perhaps the most vulnerable in our society who live on the streets. The disadvantages of being homeless compound each other and often make their lives spiral downwards and out of control. We need to intervene in their lives early on to enhance their ability to bounce back and live healthy productive lives. Please support SB2008.



**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 11:35:01 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry		Support	No

Comments:

We must provide funding for this bill! Our homeless population is only going to grow if we do not address it now.

REPRESENTATIVES JOSH GREEN, STANLEY CHANG & WILL ESPERO, BREENE  
HARIMOTO

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

**Hannah Liebreich**  
**3379 Kilauea Ave. A**  
**Honolulu, HI 96816**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Support for H.B. No. 2008, Funding for outreach and shelter services for homeless youth.

I am writing in strong support of HB2008, which would allocate funds to the department of human services to provide outreach and shelter services for homeless youth.

- Homeless youth are often homeless because they are running away from rough home lives, including but not limited to: physical and/or mental abuse and being kicked out by family members for being LGBTQ+.
- As such, and because homeless youth are minors, their needs are unique, therefore additional funding is needed to meet the needs of these young people who are a part of our community.

For the aforementioned reasons, and for many others, I urge members of the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Housing to strongly support HB2008.

**Sincerely,**  
**Hannah Liebreich**

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 1:28:29 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
A Kathleen Lee		Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Hawai'i Senators ,

Mahalo for your service to all citizens of this beloved aina. When we consider who are the most needy of the State's support, the priority has been in all civilized governments, to help our children and youth. Were you ever as a youth, separated from your family; on your own with no means of support? I was. Please fund these vital services. Our youth will potentially avoid associating with the darkest of the influences in their vulnerability, including exploitation, drug & sexual abuse. Mahalo from me and my ohana,

April Lee

Hawi, HI 96719

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 3:17:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 4:31:42 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong		Support	No

Comments:

Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Human Services, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee on Housing,

I am writing in support of S.B. 2008. While Hawaii is experiencing some of the highest per capita homelessness in the nation, it is imperative for the State of Hawaii to make efforts to provides services and shelter our houseless residents. Many houseless individuals are youth, and the longer that they spend on the streets, the more difficult their reintegration into society becomes. This measure aims to provide pathways for houseless youths for re-entry into regular society, and as such deserves our full support. Given the inordinate costs that houseless individuals create for our healthcare and social service systems, it is both the humane and the pennywise thing to reduce homelessness in Hawaii among youth.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Dylan P. Armstrong

In my individual capacity.

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 7:20:20 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph		Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 8:08:44 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teri Heede		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 9:00:23 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Reed		Support	No

Comments:

This is a small amount of funding that may make a significant difference.



STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2008 - RELATING TO HOMELESS YOUTH

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Friday, January 26, 2018

3:30 PM

Conference Room 16

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

To the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing:

Senate Bill 2008 appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to provide outreach to and shelter and services for homeless youth.

Our young people are our future, and we need to support them. They hopefully have many years to live, and everyone is better off if we can get them back on track so that they can live good lives.

With the right interventions, homeless youth can become future leaders of our state and make valuable contributions in society. They may have the potential to do anything, and we cannot underestimate their value just because something happened in their lives leading them to be homeless at a young age.

I am a blind person. I am American Indian. I was the first person in my family to ever go to college. I grew up in a rural community without paved roads. In order for me to succeed as much as I have in life, people had to believe in my potential and be the difference that I needed.

Let's make that possible for the homeless youth.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Justin Salisbury

President

Precinct 2, District 26

Democratic Party of Hawaii

1617 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1402

Honolulu, HI 96814

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 10:37:44 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Cooper		Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of appropriating funds to provide support and services to homeless youth. We must provide this support and opportunity for our most vulnerable homeless population. Mahalo.

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 2:25:54 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Caron		Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon chairs of the HMS/HOU committees,

My name is Will Caron and I am the social justice action committee chair for Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii. On behalf of our nearly 600 registered members, I would like to express strong support for this bill and ask you to advance it through this joint committee hearing.

Homelessness among young people is a serious issue. Homeless youth, sometimes referred to as unaccompanied youth, are individuals who lack parental, foster or institutional care. Homeless youth are at a higher risk for physical abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health disabilities, substance abuse and death. It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year, nationwide, as a result of assault, illness, or suicide.

Data suggests that the current recession has yielded an increase in homeless and runaway youth. Between 2005 and 2008, the National Runaway Switchboard saw a 200 percent increase in calls from youth indicating economic reasons for running away from home. The Switchboard also reported an increase in the numbers of youth who were kicked out of their homes. A 2008 survey of school districts showed an increase in the number of homeless students. It is important to note that precise numbers of homeless youth are difficult to determine due to lack of a standard methodology and mobility of the homeless population.

Studies Have Shown That: One in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will run away; youth age 12 to 17 are more at risk of homelessness than adults; 75 percent of runaways are female; estimates of the number of pregnant homeless girls are between 6 and 22 percent nationwide; between 20 and 40 percent of homeless youth identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning (GLBTQ); 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth reported being physically abused, 38 percent reported being emotionally abused, and 17 percent reported being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member; 75 percent percent of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school.

States have adopted a variety of policies to combat youth homelessness. Some of these policies address the educational needs of homeless and runaway youth while

others appropriate money for shelters and transitional housing. Other policies include counseling and outreach services to already homeless youth or youth at risk of becoming homeless. All of these efforts are important and we applaud the legislature for taking a step toward addressing this problem with SB2008. Please continue to support this bill all the way through to the governor's desk.

Mahalo,

Will Caron  
Social Justice Action Committee Chair  
YPDA - Hawaii  
8083874920

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 6:19:05 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shane Akoni Nelsen		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 11:13:12 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alika Campbell		Support	No

Comments:

Youth experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable and require a special/individualized services catered to their specific needs.

**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 9:59:39 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleb Glass		Support	No

Comments:

Committees on Human Services and Housing

SB2008 Relating to Homeless Youth

26 January, 2018

Kaleb Glass

1827 Dole Street

Honolulu, HI 96822

Committees on Human Services and Housing,

Thank you in advance your consideration of this testimony.

I am writing in support of SB2008

I am pleased to see interest in assisting our homeless youth. During my full-time day job, I work with our homeless youth population throughout the week and can testify that this population faces many unique struggles and have unmet needs.

Any support that can be provided for this population will have a huge impact on the ability of our communities to serve this population in need.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaleb Glass



**SB-2008**

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 11:22:20 AM

Testimony for HMS on 1/26/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Alu Campagna		Support	Yes

Comments:

**Mahalo to everyone here who works to protect our children. My name is Sherry Alu Campagna. I am a mom, a foster mom, and a women's rights advocate. I strongly support SB 2008 for the safety and protection it will create for our most vulnerable children-- and especially our teen girls. As the mom of a teen who once ran away, I can tell you that the fear that follows is like no other. While serving as a commissioner for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I learned that Honolulu is the sex trafficking hub of the Pacific. I also learned that runaway and foster teen girls are the perfect target for the predators that supply this network. The stark fact is that most of our girls who runaway are approached or snatched up by predators within 24 hours of running away because these kids have nowhere safe to go and choose roaming the streets over seeking help from police or returning home. We were lucky and my daughter came home on her own but what about those children that never did? If they had instead a safe place to go that wouldn't turn them over to the police, that wouldn't make them go back home, and that would instead offer them a comforting, safe place to calm down, and find support, we would finally be supporting our hurting keiki the way a community should instead of inadvertently placing them in harm's way.**