

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

March 19, 2018

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2089, SD1 Relating to Youth Commission

Hearing: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

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

March 17, 2018

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2089 SB 1 RELATING TO A YOUTH COMMISSION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2089 SB 1 Relating to a Youth Commission.

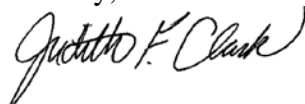
The Office of Youth Services needs input from the population it serves – youth. It will inform needs assessment, planning and evaluation of services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and those who are at risk of juvenile crime, substance abuse, and homelessness.

And there are many benefits for the youth who participate on the advisory commission as well. “Youth civic engagement leads to reduced risky behavior, increased success in school and leads to greater civic participation later in life. . . . Civic engagement provides young people with opportunities to gain work experience, acquire new skills, and to learn responsibility and accountability—all while contributing to the good of their communities.” (Center for the Study of Social Policy)

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



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



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

11:30 am

Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2089 SD1 - YOUTH COMMISSION

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi 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 more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as the approximately 5,500 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 1,600 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 Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

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. Community Alliance on Prisons suggests that this measure could be strengthened if the voices and experiences of youth who were houseless, involved in the foster care and justice systems were part of the Commission.

We urge the committee to pass this bill and help our children and youth become active and engaged participants in civic issues. These are our future leaders and our greatest treasures!

Mahlo for hearing this important bill. We urge the committee to pass it.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*"Rather than standing or speaking for children,
we need to stand with children speaking for themselves.
We don't need a political movement for children...
[we need to] build environments and policies for our collective future."*

Sandra Meucci



To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Support for SB 2089 SD1, Relating to a Youth Commission**

Hrg: March 20, 2018 at 8:30 am at Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 2089 SD1 which establishes a youth commission and appropriates funds in the Office of Youth Services to advise the Governor and the Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets relating to youth.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) engages in a number of policy efforts to ensure that Hawai'i is the healthiest place to live. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is a program of HIPHI that is dedicated to reducing tobacco use through education, policy, and advocacy. With more than two decades of history in Hawai'i, the Coalition has led several campaigns on enacting smoke-free environments, including being the first state in the nation to prohibit the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to purchasers under 21 years of age.

Part of the Coalition's success can be attributed to the work of our Youth Council. The Youth Council is a statewide network of youth and young adults representing all four Hawaii counties. In the last four years, they have championed campaigns to raise the age of sale of tobacco to 21, protect minors from secondhand smoke in cars, and now – to regulate vaping and keep tobacco stores away from schools.

We have engaged our youth as part of policy solutions, providing ways for them to lead and channel their motivation and experiences into effective community change. Through youth-led legislative campaigns, our youth leaders have been able to explore community challenges in public health and potential solutions. They learn how to develop a campaign and build a network to educate their peers and create policy change.

SB 2089 SD1 provides a critical opportunity for Hawai'i youth to become involved in the legislative process and gain recognition as an important voice for change. HIPHI is in support of this measure and we respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica
Policy and Advocacy Director



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2089, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO A YOUTH COMMISSION

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hon. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Mizuno and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2089, SD 1, relating to a youth commission.

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often loitering around public school campuses to target our children. Traffickers are experts in observing and selecting their victims, and often infiltrate public schools by using students to recruit their peers. One of the largest child sex trafficking rings discovered on Hawai'i's shores was unearthed in 2014. It included 16 students, most whom were students at Mililani High School and Moanalua High School, two of our state's top performing schools. Currently, IMUAlliance is involved in investigations at six schools facing trafficking problems, all of which were initiated this year.

We are one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking, for which childhood sexual abuse is frequently a precursor. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention services to 130 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims in total. We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach. Teachers, in turn, frequently request information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state's prolific slave trade. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered

from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name.

Sex trafficking is just one of many issues facing the youth of Hawai'i, whose voices are too often silenced in policymaking involving children's well-being. From topics ranging from bullying prevention to improving our public school system, our state would benefit from coordinating a forum to amplify the opinions of our most vulnerable constituents. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

SB-2089-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:47:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth M. Nakasone	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support SB2089 SD1 and am submitting my 15 year old son's testimony below.

-Ken Nakasone

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 2089

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Time: 8:30 A.M

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services;

My name is Rylan Nakasone and I am a freshman at Moanalua High School.

I strongly support this bill to establish a Youth Commission for the following reasons: As a member of the generation that will become the future workforce and future politicians, I think that it is crucial that we have some experience and mentoring.

As a member of the Moanalua Symphony Orchestra that won the ASTA National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta earlier this month, we proved that the Youth of Hawaii can be just as good as anyone in the United States, if given the opportunity. Here, if the State of Hawaii were to create an opportunity for the youth to become involved in politics like they have in San Francisco, then we will have the same opportunity to excel as they do.

I urge you to please support this bill so the future generations of Hawaii will be raised in an extremely efficient government and society.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Rylan Nakasone

Area: Aiea

Zip Code: 96701

Date: 3/19/18

SB-2089-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:34:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services:

Good morning, 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 **SB2089 SD1**, relating to a Youth Commission; Office of Youth Services; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2089 SD1** and support its passage.

SB2089 SD1, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a youth 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; and appropriates funds, effective 7/1/2050.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so. We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive. (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 184-191 (2016)).

Given that **SB2089 SD1** establishes a youth 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; and appropriates funds, effective 7/1/2050, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889



TO: Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Tuesday, March 20, 2018; 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2089 RELATING TO A YOUTH COMMISSION

We support SB 2089– Relating to a youth commission. This bill establishes a youth 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. We should continue to create opportunities where diverse perspectives are included, especially those of the consumers.

Youth issues should include youth voices. The commission is a great way to engage the future generation in real-world conversations about the issues surrounding their lives and our communities. By involving our youth, we will encourage them to be fully engaged in Hawaii's current civic landscape and will affirm that their voice matters. Civic engagement for our youth will help them to learn new skills, gain experience and be active participants in helping to create a bright future for Hawaii.

As an organization who works together with our youth, we wholeheartedly support giving youth a voice. We support giving them the opportunities to have a seat at the table. Our children are our future and should be active participants in the work of our community. Our youth have a lot to share... it is important that we listen. Let's build up the next generation of innovative thinkers, problem solvers, solution builders and civic leaders!

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its

services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2089**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

SB-2089-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:40:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As aa teacher and former Neighborhood Board Chair, I know students have good ideas. They are often key stakeholders and need to be heard more often. Therefore I support this bill.