



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2018

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 2302 – RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018, 3:10 p.m.
Conference Room 415, 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 Governor's supplemental budget or conflict with provisions of chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Coordinator defers to the State Procurement Office and Department of the Attorney General as to whether this proposal is consistent with provisions of chapter 42F.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the Hawaii Youth Services Network's transitional living program.

The Coordinator notes that adolescence and young adulthood represent a key developmental window, and that the 2017 statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found 319 unaccompanied youth statewide, including 263 that were unsheltered. The Coordinator further notes that the 2017 Housing Inventory Count Report, which is an estimate of shelter and permanent housing bed inventory for people experiencing homelessness, found only 27 shelter beds statewide that were specifically dedicated as beds for homeless youth age 24 and younger. The lack of dedicated beds for homeless youth is concerning given the specialized needs of this population.

The Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) plays a critical role in administering transitional living services to run away and homeless youth. In particular, the transitional living services administered by HYSN prepare young people for independent adult living in the community and serves youth up to age 21.

The Coordinator appreciates the Legislature's efforts to fill a funding gap for the transitional living program, but has concerns regarding potential adverse impact on other items in the budget that are critical pieces of the State's comprehensive approach to homelessness. Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed not only to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, but also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time.

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

February 1, 2018

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2302, Relating to Youth Homelessness**

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018, 3:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 16

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. Transitional living programs serving youth experiencing homelessness is an important service area of the continuum of care 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 youth and other services. Additional resources would bolster the continuum of care for this vulnerable population.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Youth Services Network's transitional housing program, benefiting homeless youth, to bridge a temporary gap in federal funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SB-2302

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:07:05 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Johnson	Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Green and Distinguished Senators.

Our adolescent treatment services work with Youth Outreach in Waikiki who provides support (showers, food, some supplies - they are open 4 days a week to kids) for runaway and homeless youth. They do terrific work.

Aloha Alan Johnson

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

January 26, 2018

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2302 RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB2302 Relating to Youth Homelessness.

HYSN and partners – Hale Kipa on Oahu, Maui Youth and Family Services, and The Salvation Army Family Intervention Services on Hawaii Island – have collaborated on a transitional living program for runaway and homeless youth ages 16-21 since 1997.

Brandy is a 21-year old transitional living program resident who spoke at our annual meeting. Brandy became homeless at 14, when she ran away from foster care to live with her mother on the streets. Youth Outreach, the drop-in center for homeless youth, was her home base for several years – the place she went for meals, showers, and most importantly, to build relationships with trusted adults.

Brandy is learning the skills for adult living and saving money from her job, so she can soon move into her own apartment. When asked what she liked about living in the program, Brandy values having a bed, being able to take showers when she wants to (“Being clean is very important to a woman.”, she told us.), having a way to wash her clothes – She made us recognize how important these things are, and how difficult they are to obtain when you are homeless. “I used to get in trouble at my job because my apron wasn’t clean.”

She spoke about the Section 8 program that Hale Kipa manages for youth, and how hard it was to get all the documentation together that she needed. "I had just gotten it all," she said, "And then the program ran out of money." Fortunately, Hale Kipa received more funding for the program, and Brandy's face lit up with joy as she told us, "I just got my voucher." Brandy started classes at Leeward Community College last fall.

Another former transitional living resident shared with me that, "When I got out of jail, I thought I wouldn't be able to stay out of prison for very long. But now, I got an apartment, a job, and a bank account. I'm ready to make it on my own."

More than 40% of Hawaii's runaway and homeless youth were forced to leave home by their families, according to a 2016 survey. Nine out of ten have slept outdoors in a park, beach, car, or sidewalk. Two-fifths have been victims of violence while on the streets. Almost half have spent time in foster care as a result of family abuse and neglect.

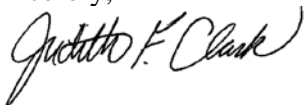
They are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population because they are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

Due to a glitch in the federal funding system, HYSN and more than 100 other federal grantees are faced with a gap in funding from May – September this year. Without gap funding, the homeless youth in the program could be forced back on the streets.

At the end of this testimony, I have attached six statements we have received from participants in the Transitional Living Program and other homeless youth. They could not attend this hearing in person, but their voices deserve to be heard.

Thank you for caring about Hawaii's homeless children and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kaulana Matila and I have been a resident of the Independent Living Transition Home since December 2006. As a participant in the Transition program I was equipped with goals including attending college and receiving financial aid. Additional goals include finding a suitable job and getting my driver's license. Since being in this program I got accepted into Hawaii Community College. I was also awarded scholarships to help me along my path to success. I also found a job that best suits me and works perfectly around my schooling. As for my license, I am still studying for my test. So, the Transitional Living Program has taught me many things that I had never thought I would come to know. For instance, paying bills, saving accounts, checking accounts, budgeting and many more important lessons.

I appreciate the Transitional Living Program very much because if it were not for this program I think I wouldn't have a place to stay or even come close to fulfilling any of my goals.

Sincerely,

Kaulana Matila

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kaulana Matila". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

The TLV programs has provide
me with a positive living and
safe environment off the streets
they provide shelter food and
train so I can learn to go
own my own and do good
they can't ~~can~~ teach me
what I need to know to
survive and thrive in the
real world I am thankful
and grateful for being and
know the program

Sincerely
Angby Singhkhon

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Tony Skinner who was a homeless starving young adult weighing less then 100 pounds living in the bush prior entering the Salvation Army Street Outreach Program. I am writing to support the Salvation Army Homeless Transition House. By getting more funds youths and young adults would have the opportunities to transition off the streets and into a safe house that would supply hot meals and life skills needed in preparing them in making healthy choices for a better future. There is an increase in homeless youth/young adults on the Big Island and most of all in the town of Hilo. Please support this program in more funding for a homeless youth.

Sincerely,



Tony Skinner

Thank you for the helping me get my act together. I don't know what I would have done without you and Maui Youth. I lost faith in myself and was ready to give up, but you never gave up on me. I been a lot happier since I got a real place to stay and a job. The money isn't great but Im going something I really like so I guess its all good. Thank you cause if not for you I would still be stuck living in my car. Oh and thanks for all the stuff you gave me. I almost forgot what it felt like to wear shoes. Thanks for all the clothes you got me. I use them for work and to go out with friends at night. Now I just got to get into college. Thanks for the computer. It has made it easier for me to contact people because of my yahoo email. I also can search for schools and apply online now so you don't have to get on me about applying to schools. Nah but I know why you did it. You looking out for. Thanks Mr. Furtado. And please tell your bosses I said thanks too.

To whom it may concern

My name is Rolanda Kahalioumi who is in the Salvation Army Street Outreach Program. Prior to moving to Kona with my mom and finding a good job, I was a homeless youth/young adult. Some times friends and families would feel sorry for me and let me stay with them a few days. I am in support for the Salvation Army Homeless Transition House because it will help the homeless youths/young adults get off the streets, into a safe/warm place with hot meals. Also giving them the opportunities in learning life skills for a better and positive future. About a year ago I was a resident of the Salvation Army Transition House where I received these skills, and also gained relationship with caring and a supportive workers that has enabled me to transition back into the community. Please support this program by providing more funding that will provide youth/young adult a chance for a better and safe life. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Rolanda Kahalioumi

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to support the Homeless Transition House in providing a house for homeless youths and young adults get off the streets and into a warm and safe house. I am in the Salvation Army Street Outreach Program, because I was a run away homeless youth myself. In Hilo we don't have much programs out there to support youth and young adults aging out into adult hood. In teaching them life skill the young adults will learn how to be self sufficient and knowledgeable in finding the right service providers to help transition youths on their own. Please support by giving more funding. Aloha!

Sincerely,



Amy Rodrigues



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

MONDAY, February 5, 2018, 3:45 PM, Room 16

SB 2302, RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

TESTIMONY

Nina Eejima, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Green; Vice Chair Chang; and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2302 that appropriates funds as a grant to the Hawaii Youth Services Network's transitional housing program, benefitting homeless youth, to bridge a gap in federal funds.

We note that for the past 20 years, the Hawaii Youth Services Network has received federal grant funding to support services of the transitional living program through the federal Administration for Children and Families. Following the expiration of its current federal grant in April 2018, there is uncertainty whether there will be any federal funding available for 2018. This proposed short-term funding will fund a five-month period.

We further note that among unaccompanied youth (many of whom have children), a high majority are unsheltered, and that the homeless youth count for 2017 is the same as that of 2016 even though there has been an overall 12 per cent decrease statewide in the total number of unsheltered homeless. Taking this into account, we urge the Legislature to adopt a more sustainable and long-term funding approach in providing vital transitional living support to unsheltered homeless youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



615 Piikoi Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-3139

T 808.589.1829
F 808.589.2610
E info@halekipa.org
W www.halekipa.org

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Neighbor Island Board Liaison

February 1, 2018

Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2302 RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS----IN SUPPORT

Dear Senators Green and Chang and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony in support of SB 2302. This bill is intended to provide some bridge monies to the Hawaii Youth Services Network that will allow current transitional living programs in the State of Hawaii to continue to provide transitional housing and supportive services to young adults until more long-term funds can be secured. This need was prompted due to an Administration for Children and Families decision to not renew any contracts ending in the Spring of 2018 and to ask all of the agencies to apply for the Fall 2018 monies leaving a period of 6 months of no funding.

Lack of bridge monies would require that some of the existing programs on Oahu, Maui and Hawaii Island may need to close their doors. While Hale Kipa operates one of these programs, we are unclear as to what we would do as an agency. The program runs in the red but does provide transitional shelter for 24 young adults per year and if it closed at this moment, may result in more young adult homelessness. Obviously, bridge money would allow the programs to continue its operation without disrupting the young people while at the same time working diligently to find them more permanent housing.

Please consider appropriating funds to the Hawaii Youth Services Network to provide short-term funding to address the loss of federal funds for these young people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, MSW
Deputy CEO, Hale Kipa, Inc.



ALOHA UNITED WAY
KAUAI UNITED WAY
HAWAII ISLAND UNITED WAY

SB-2302

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 3:20:10 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Campbell		Support	No

Comments:

As someone who has worked with runaway/homeless youth and young adults for the last 20 years, I strongly support funding for the Transitional Living Program (TLP). TLP provides a safe and stable place for young adults to learn and practice life skills. It is sort of "practice for the real world" in that it allows young adults to learn and grow from the "mistakes" as well as giving them time to save money and plan for the next steps in their transitions to adulthood. Thank you for considering providing bridge funding for this important program.

SB-2302

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 11:25:20 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate	Support	No

Comments: