



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 5, 2018

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2302 – RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018, 3:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in Governor's supplemental budget or conflict with provisions of chapter 42F. DHS defers to the State Procurement Office and the Department of the Attorney General as to whether this proposal is consistent with provisions of chapter 42F, and offers comments.

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

Nationwide there are about 150,000 unaccompanied youth ages 24 years and younger experiencing homelessness. In the 2017 State of Hawaii Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count revealed a total 319 unaccompanied youth. Of the 319 unaccompanied youth, 82% were unsheltered. Although there was a decline in the 2017 PIT Count, unaccompanied youth is a tough population to engage in services.

DHS recognizes the importance of youth services, and that late adolescence and young adulthood are critical times when the brains of youth and young adults are not yet fully developed, they may not have job skills, or resources to maintain their independence. Effects

of adverse childhood experiences and gaps in services for unaccompanied youth put these young people at greater risk for victimization, sexual assault, mental health issues, and the likelihood that the young person will experience long term homelessness as reported in Pathways to Youth Homelessness, Porter, M., 2017, see <http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Pathways%20into%20Youth%20Homelessness%20Report.pdf>).

DHS supports the intent of this bill to fill in a funding gap while Hawaii Youth Services Network, a coalition of non-profit organizations, and other grantees of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families anticipate future funding and secure other sources.

DHS defers to the State Procurement Office and the Department of the Attorney General regarding whether a bill is the correct vehicle for a request of this nature as section 42F-102, HRS, provides that "[r]equests for grants shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature at the start of each regular session of the legislature." This session, the standing committee receiving grant applications is Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



February 5, 2018

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 2302 – Relating to Youth Homelessness**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 16, February 5, 2018, 3:45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 2302 – Relating to Youth Homelessness.

Unaccompanied youth living on the streets have different needs and issues than homeless adults and families. Unaccompanied youth are also one of the most invisible and vulnerable segments of the homeless population. They need outreach and housing programs that are tailored to address their specific needs such as counseling, safety, health issues, and workers who understand adolescent development and their mental health challenges.

According to a 2012 report published by Child Trends, children and youth who experience a high degree of instability and turbulence in their lives are more likely to suffer higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems. Children and youth who are homeless may suffer from hunger, poor physical and emotional health, and missed educational opportunities.

The Hawaii Youth Services Network's transitional housing program for runaway and homeless youth provides a critical service to this population, helping to secure stable housing solutions and build a pathway toward greater economic stability and a healthier thriving community. In anticipation of an impending gap in federal funding for the transitional housing program, the State should step in to ensure that this program and the services it provides can continue without interruption.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: RainbowFamily808@gmail.com Ph: (808) 779-9078 Fax: (808) 672-6347

February 4, 2018

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
and Members on the Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
[514 Beretania Street](#)
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

RE: Strong Support for SB 2302

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB 2302, in order to bridge the temporary gap until Federal Funds arrive for our Most At-Risk population for our Homeless Youth Shelters.

The State of Hawai'i is desperately behind in their care of our Homeless Youth. Rainbow Family 808 has sat depressed at the growing number of Homeless Shelters open across our state without ONE for the Homeless Youth. Never are any of the newly designated Homeless Shelters for the Youth. The State of Hawaii is 25+ years late in addressing the needs of these minors. Time's UP!!!

All these years, the State of Hawaii has forfeited Federal Funds for the Homeless Youth. Those funds will never be regained so now is the Time. We have lost so many Homeless Youth to suicide, to lost of confidence to complete their schooling that harms their future and the tax dollars these young people could have brought into our state. Hawaii has to correct this graviorous failure.

This Support of SB 2302 is necessary and imperative to put to the top of the list for complete funding including the funds that will supplement the funds that will come to Hawaii as our fair share Federal Funding. Rainbow Family 808 doesn't have a vested interest in this Bill other than we are strongly supported SB 2302 for the benefit of the Homeless Youth living on the street without shelter from the rain, winds, sun. Please protect this At-Risk population in a speedy manner to protect them from harm. It's the Pono thing to do.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
President and Co-Founder
Rainbow Family 808

SB-2302

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:40:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brianne Nagamine		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2302

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:26:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Yamauchi	Hawaii Children's Action Network	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support of maintaining, at the very least, funding for the Hawaii Youth Services Network's transitional housing program to benefit our houseless youth.

SB-2302

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:23:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments: