

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

February 2, 2018

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2303, Relating to Youth

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

OFFICE'S POSITION: 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. 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.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Rick Collins, President

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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 24, 2018

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2030 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 2203 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the youth who attended the 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in 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.

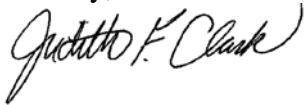
The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community 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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Josh Green Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Monday, February 5, 2018

3:45 pm

Room 016

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 2303 - EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chairs 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 more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of 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.

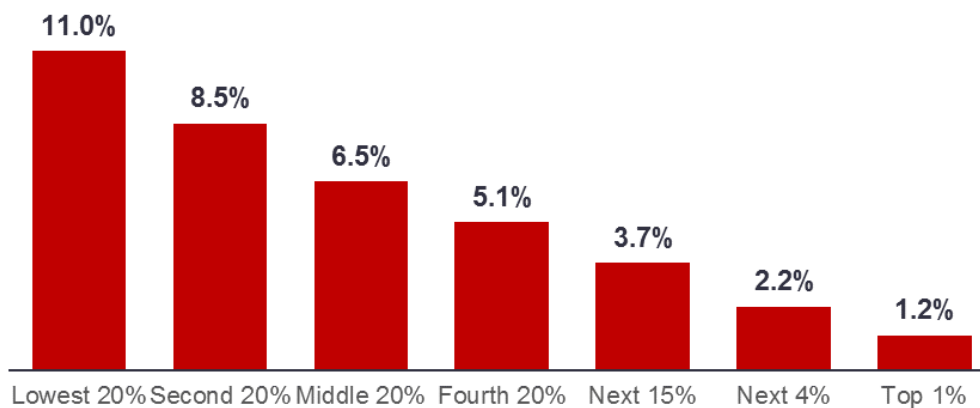
SB 2303 changes the earned income tax credit from a nonrefundable tax credit to a refundable tax credit. Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of refundable tax credits for low income working families. The cost of living in Hawai'i makes it a great challenge for those families struggling to make ends meet. We would like to thank Hawai'i Appleseed for their local research on this issue.

One of the few parts of the federal tax code that remained largely unchanged during the reform process was Earned Income Tax Credits. It is one of the government's biggest and most effective programs to encourage poor Americans to work and to make that work worth the time and effort, with new research showing just how effective it is. The Earned Income Tax Credit supported roughly 28 million families with an average credit of \$2,440 as of 2015, pushing 3.3 million kids above the poverty line.

In Hawai'i, our lowest-income households pay over 13% of their income in state and local taxes, while those at the top pay less than 8%. The main reason for this inequity is the General Excise Tax (GET), applied to almost all goods and services, which hits low-income and working-class families almost ten times harder than those at the top.

Our lowest-income households pay over 13% of their income in state and local taxes, while those at the top pay less than 8%. The main reason for this inequity is the General Excise Tax (GET), applied to almost all goods and services, which hits low-income and working-class families almost ten times harder than those at the top.

The GET Hits Low-Income Workers Almost 10 Times As Hard As the Top 1%
Hawaii's General Excise Tax as a Share of Family Income



Households in the bottom fifth of the income spectrum make an average of \$10,100 per year. They pay 11% of their income in the GET, for an average of \$1,111 per year. In contrast, they pay about 0.5% in state income tax, for an average of \$50.

A report¹ from Talk Poverty for Hawai'i 2017, stated that Hawai'i's overall poverty rate is 9.3% meaning that 129,569 of our people who fell below the poverty line – \$24,340 for a family of four – in 2016.

Poverty is the worst form of violence.

Mahatma Gandhi

¹ Poverty, Hawaii 2017. <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/hawaii-2017-report/>

SB-2303

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 6:09:46 PM

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

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

Comments:



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TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2303, RELATING TO YOUTH

Senate Committee on Human Services

Hon. Josh Green, Chair

Hon. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Monday, February 5, 2018, 3:45 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Green 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 2303, relating to youth.

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 a profoundly violent crime. The Average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation is 13-years-old, with 60 percent of sex trafficked children being under the age of 16. Approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments are operational in Hawai'i. An estimated 1,500-2,500 women and children are victimized by sex traffickers in our state annually. Over 110,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, a number that has *not* decreased with the recent shuttering of Backpage.com's "adult services" section. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home.

With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent of report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence as such. As one underage victim—now a survivor—told IMUAlliance prior to being rescued, "I can't be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I'm a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it."

To end sex trafficking on our shores, we must provide safe spaces for youth, such as those proposed by this bill, to discuss and receive coordinated services for the issues that lead to sexual exploitation, including bullying, physical and sexual abuse, and adolescent anxiety and depression. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

SB-2303

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 10:21:11 AM

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

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

Comments:

SB-2303

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 11:24:54 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: