

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

February 12, 2018

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2791 – RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 3:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure and provides comments.

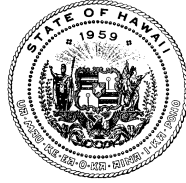
PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to amend chapter 352 and chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, and transform the approach of juvenile justice to a therapeutic model. The Wellness Center will provide much needed services for at-risk youth and young adults, including victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

DHS supports the continuing efforts to reform the juvenile justice system, recognizes the need for additional services for at-risk youth and young adults in the community, and supports the development of a therapeutic model to address complex issues affecting our youth.

DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) had concerns regarding the mixture of minors with adult population. CWS met with the Office of Youth Services (OYS) and clarified with OYS that although the Wellness Center would provide services to youth and young adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four, the crisis shelter for victims of human trafficking would be limited to minors. This separation is necessary to ensure that these

minor victims are not in residence or residential care with adults. CSEC victims who are minors and the young adult population at the Wellness Center will not be integrated, and provisions will be in place to separate participants from the various programs on the property to ensure that all of those being serviced on the property are safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB2791
RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 14, 2018, Room Number: 016
3:45 pm

1 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this bill is to amend chapter 352 and chapter 352D,
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center, and
3 transform the approach of juvenile justice to a therapeutic model.

4 The Department of Health supports the intent of this bill and provides comments. The
5 Department of Health supports the intent of the legislation to divert at risk youth (ages 21 years
6 and under) from involvement in the justice system and/or placement in out of state mental health
7 facilities.

8 Currently, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD), a division of the
9 Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration, provides mental health prevention,
10 assessment, and treatment services to over 2,000 children and adolescents with emotional and
11 behavioral challenges and their families statewide. CAMHD also works in partnership with the
12 Office of Youth Services (OYS) to provide behavioral and emotional health services to at risk
13 youth placed at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) via the co-located Family Court
14 Liaison Branch (FCLB). Thus, the CAMHD is well-positioned to comment on this bill and has
15 been in collaborative discussions with OYS regarding the therapeutic vision of Kawaioloa's
16 residential and/or intensive delinquency prevention programs. In initial discussions with OYS,
17 CAMHD has identified several potential opportunities for CAMHD involvement at the Kawaioloa
18 facility:

- 1 1. Possible collaboration with OYS to develop a request for proposals process and contract
2 with outside agencies for behavioral and emotional health services. This partnership
3 would ensure that the Kawaihoa youth and families would be offered therapeutic
4 treatment from providers who have been both screened through a rigorous evaluation
5 process and have demonstrated experience in the management of residential emotional
6 and behavioral health programs.

- 7 2. Possible provision of certain types of intensive evidence-based treatments to youth clients
8 (21 years and under) at Kawaihoa, presenting with high-risk behaviors (e.g., suicidality,
9 substance use, aggression).

10 At the same time, the Department of Health judges that this vitally needed programming
11 proposed in this administrative proposal will require newly designated state resources and cannot
12 be achieved by relying on present allocations.

13 In summary, the Department of Health supports the intent of HB2364 HD1 and has identified
14 numerous opportunities for partnership with OYS, towards the goal of providing better services
15 for our local youth and families.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



SB2791
RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM
Senate Committee on Human Services

February 14, 2018

3:45 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2791. This measure would transform the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility into the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, which would adopt an innovative, therapeutic approach specifically designed to help heal Hawai'i's troubled youth, restore their families, and enhance the long-term safety and overall well-being of our communities.

In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system.¹ This report found that Native Hawaiian youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, and are also most frequently arrested in all offense categories.² Since 2012, OHA has also administered the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force (NHJTF), which was tasked by the Legislature to address the multi-faceted issue of Native Hawaiian involvement in the criminal justice system.³ **In its report, the Task Force further acknowledged that "an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, regardless of race, often begins at youth."**⁴

The proposed Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center will help to address these very concerning findings, by taking an innovative approach to rehabilitating at-risk and offending youth that is individual-, family-, and community-focused. OHA understands that the Center will focus on treating the root causes of delinquent youth behavior, rather than by simply punishing the symptoms, thereby reducing the likelihood that offending youth will continue to engage in criminal activity through adulthood. For example, services offered will seek to proactively prevent and disrupt juvenile delinquency by addressing the unique challenges faced by youth experiencing homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness, and human trafficking. The Ho'opono Mamo diversion program supported by this measure, which has already demonstrated success with its youth participants, will also continue to provide moral and spiritual grounding for at-risk Hawaiian youth by focusing

¹ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (2010), https://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ir_final_web_rev.pdf.

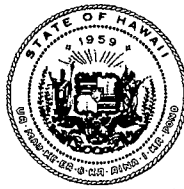
² *Id.* at 68.

³ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT (2012), https://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf.

⁴ *Id.* at 21.

on personal accountability and interpersonal healing through traditional Hawaiian practices including pule, ho'oponopono, and mālama 'āina. **OHA believes that these early-stage therapeutic approaches will help to heal our broken youth, resulting in stronger individuals and families, and will likely provide long-term benefits to public safety and the overall well-being of our communities.** In addition, OHA is hopeful that the success of the Kawaioloa Center may also serve as a model for greater reform of our criminal justice system in general.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2791. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

February 13, 2018

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2791, Relating to Juvenile Justice Reform

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 3:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 16

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports the measure. The overarching goal of establishing the Kawailoa youth and family wellness center (KYFWC) is to be a pu'uhonoua, or place of healing, for youth and young adults. Many youth have experienced some form of trauma in their young lives that have negatively impacted their functioning and coping behaviors, resulting in their involvement with the juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, substance abuse and other systems of care. Accessing appropriate services and programs to address root causes is critical to increase resiliency and protective factors for youth at-risk. Youth involved in one or more systems of care are often challenged in making connections, sustaining healthy relationships, and building academic/vocational/life skills; providing culturally-grounded, and therapeutically appropriate programming at KYFWC will help their journeys as they make the transition through young adulthood.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to establish the Kawailoa youth and family wellness center at the Hawaii youth correctional facility of the office of youth services to incorporate a more therapeutic and rehabilitative focus.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/14/2018

Time: 03:45 PM

Location: 016

Committee: Senate Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2791 RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM.

Purpose of Bill: Amends chapter 352 and chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, and transforms the approach of juvenile justice to a therapeutic model.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2791, with comments. While SB 2791 addresses therapeutic measures, it is unclear how the proposed Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center will provide a quality standards based education and special education services to eligible at risk young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

Young adults under the age of 22, who are eligible for special education, must still be provided all appropriate services, per their Individualized Education Program (IEP). In accordance with the Department's child-find responsibilities, any student under the age of 22, not currently eligible for special education and is suspected to have a disability, is entitled to an evaluation.

Currently, Olomana School provides a quality standards based education to students at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), Detention Home (DH), Home Maluhia, and Olomana Youth Center (OYC), with approximately 33 percent of the students receiving special education services. The Department is seeking clarification regarding how the educational needs of current Olomana School students as well as those at the proposed Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, will be supported.

A collaborative partnership between the Department and HYCF as they develop Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center is encouraged to ensure that students receive a quality education as well as the supports and services necessary to earn a high school diploma, GED, certificate, or pursue post-secondary education and/or careers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2791.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan

which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

February 12, 2018

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2791 RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2791 Relating to Juvenile Justice Reform.

In 2014, the Hawaii Legislature enacted bills that defined beds in the Youth Correctional Facility as being for serious offenders only and allocated funds for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Since then:

- The number of youth at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility has declined to the lowest level ever – about 20 youth in a facility built for 60 that had 120 fifteen years ago;
- At the same time, the number of adolescents receiving services from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division has increased; and,
- The number of youth in out-of-state residential treatment has increased. Youth are only placed out-of-state if there are no appropriate services available in Hawaii.

Each year, youth who participate in the Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol, identify priority needs and issues that they believe our legislators should address. In recent years, mental health services have been one of their top priorities. Youth tell us that they need:

- Access to mental health services without parental consent and notification;
- Increased school-based counseling services;
- Support groups;
- Peer mentoring programs

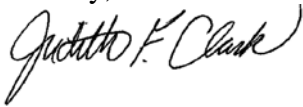
It is clear that increasing access to mental health and substance abuse treatment improves outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. Providing prevention and treatment services in portions of the facility no longer needed for court-sentenced youth makes sense.

HYSN has concerns about the accuracy of some of the information in the bill regarding youth crime and sex trafficking of youth, however:

1. So far as providers of outreach and other services to homeless youth can determine, the youth arrested for recent violent crimes in Waikiki were not homeless. Just because a youth hangs out in Waikiki at night, does not mean that he or she does not have a home that they can and do return to.
2. Only 5% of juvenile arrests in Hawaii involve some form of intimidation or use of weapons. This does not indicate that violent crime among our youth is a serious concern.
3. Only 13% of street youth who completed a 2016 survey stated that they had traded sex for food, money, drugs, or a place to sleep. Much of this sexual activity is what is known as “survival sex”, when a young person trades sexual favors for something that they need to meet their basic survival needs. Sex trafficking involves coercing or controlling the victim through physical abuse or through threats (for example, threatening to kill a family member). Both result in trauma to the youth, but the needs and issues are different and require different kinds of services.

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 HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

3:45 pm

Room 16

SUPPORT - SB 2791 - KAWAIILOA YOUTH & FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Rhoads 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.

SB 2791 establishes the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness center and transforms the approach of juvenile justice to a therapeutic model.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports Hawai'i changing its approach to youth justice to a public health-focused model. This is a very ambitious project and we look forward to more specific information being publicly available. We checked out the OYS website, but could not find information about the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center there.

Research has shown making the shift from a punitive system to a rehabilitative one that cares about the youth being served, has a tremendous and sometimes life-long effect on the person. When we start WORKING WITH our youth rather than WORKING ON them, we create an environment of caring, this is what allows change to happen. This is what our youth need. Open minds, caring hearts, and community support to guide them through this information-overloaded world.

We respect the work of the Hawai'i Youth Services Network and hope that the bill is amended with the research they provided at the end of their testimony to correct some assertions made in Section 1. Mahalo for this opportunity to support positive change for our youth.

The Youth of a Nation are the trustees of posterity.

Benjamin Disraeli



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

January 25, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: SB2791, Relating to Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center

Hearing: Thursday, February 14, 2018 3:45pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

POSITION: RYSE strongly supports this measure.

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.

The proposed Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center will provide more services for the Windward community and give youth island wide another much needed resource to end their homelessness.

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

LATE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2791 JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

February 14, 2018

3:45 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chair Green, Vice-Chair, Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SB 2791 Relating to Juvenile Justice Reform.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for seven Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. Historically, our work has focused on traditional risk factors for child abuse, including homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disabilities. However, in 2014, after much research and analysis, BFC determined that one of the most severe risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that there is at least one parent who is incarcerated.

An estimated 2.7 million children nationwide have at least one parent that is incarcerated, and studies conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative show that in terms of negative impacts on children, incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the divorce of parents. Even more disheartening is the evidence that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing the “cycle of incarceration” that sadly becomes generational in some families.

The passage of SB 2791 is important for several reasons, most importantly, however, are the following: (1) the majority of the youth at HYCF are there because they were traumatized themselves at an early age and they need a safe place to heal, re-connect and resynchronize themselves into positive behaviors, learn skills, and become, “E Ho`okanaka,” persons of worth; (2) it will help implement the provisions of Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, enacting a Pu`uhonua system throughout the State; and (3) converting HYCF into a Hawaiian Wellness Center, or Pu`uhonua, visitation centers will provide a friendly environment that will encourage families to visit their significant others more often, and national criminal justice data shows that incarcerated individuals who have maintained positive relationships, particularly with their families, throughout their incarceration are less likely to recidivate when they re-enter society; (4) the center will provide youth and their families with opportunities to receive information and referral and resource linkage services, guidance and counseling, and wrap around services to address issues relating to poverty; (5) the Wellness Center could also be staffed with kupuna and Hawaiian cultural practitioners who could provide Native Hawaiian youth and families with more relevant cultural counseling and problem-solving practices; and (6) the State can begin saving millions of dollars in the future by reducing our prison population and welfare costs.

Mahalo for allowing us to share this testimony with the Committees.

SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 3:16:56 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying on behalf of OCC Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

3:45 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2791, RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

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

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.2791, relating to the Department of Justice Reform and Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center Human Services.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2791 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2791 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, and transforms the approach of juvenile justice to a therapeutic model.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e 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 184-187 (2016)).

We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 382-385 (2016)).

We support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society. Likewise, we support opportunities for those who have been incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community and make available health, educational, and other assistance programs needed to allow them to become productive and respected members of the community. (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 273-277 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2791 establishes the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, and transforms the approach of juvenile justice to a therapeutic model, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities 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, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



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Zadoc W. Brown, Jr.
Neighbor Island Board Liaison

February 13, 2018

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

RE: SB 2791 RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM----IN SUPPORT

Dear Senators Green and Chang and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony in support of SB 2791. This bill is an earnest and thoughtful attempt to build on the Legislature's Act 201 which implored the community to improve outcomes for Hawaii's youth in the juvenile justice system and expand community resources.

The suggested programs that may comprise the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center strive for many beneficial outcomes that include: maximizing the use of a beautiful and underutilized property (grounds of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)), offering a wide range of programming that service providers seek to better respond to the youth and their families, and preventing youth from further juvenile justice involvement and potential incarceration at HYCF. Concurrently the programming for young homeless adults allows these young people to have a safe environment where they can access assistance to locate employment and more permanent living situations.

Hale Kipa serves youth who could benefit from all the programs focused on homelessness, mental health, vocational training. Hale Kipa was also recently awarded some funds to actually provide specialized emergency shelter and related services to minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking and hopes to house the program on the HYCF grounds and fulfill one of the initial initiatives. Providing an improved response to minor victims of trafficking will hopefully start the journey for youth to heal past trauma, repair relationships, develop more skills and enlarge their support systems.

Hale Kipa is excited about the vision of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, believe that the Office of Youth Services and Warden Patterson are dedicated to collaboration and partnership and has the potential to ensure we continue to support juvenile justice reform and provide our young people the support and programs they need.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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



SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 11:42:18 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying on behalf of Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We are in STRONG SUPPORT of this AWESOME BILL! The "Wellness Center" idea is a major move in the right direction to improve the rehabilitational efforts of our troubled/at-risk youth. Mahalo.

SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 6:47:24 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Wiseman	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I live on Uluhaku Place in the Olomana Subdivision. My property is adjacent to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF). I know most of my neighbors on this little cul de sac and we are concerned over potential future growth of this facility.

I support the intent of this bill to provide needed services for the youth of Hawaii. Locating this Center in an underutilized building makes sense.

But I most oppose this bill because it does not clearly state what sort of renovations need to be made to the existing HYCF to be able to house this new Center. Will it just be internal renovations? Or is a massive addition to the HYCF being considered? Please amend the bill to address this concern.

Please be reminded that there is an existing prohibition that was enacted over 30 years ago that prohibits new construction above a certain elevation along the slopes of Mount Olomana. My memory is that the HYCF is right at that elevation.

On behalf of my neighbors, I request that we residents of Uluhaku Place be included as stake holders in any future building plans in the vicinity of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility.

Also, the chain link security fence that protects our homes from escaping youth is over 30 years old, rusting in many locations and badly needs replacing. So, I request that you include funding for replacing this fence.

I look forward to watching this bill progress through the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Gary Wiseman

SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 1:32:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 3:58:53 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice H Taketa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There a too many homeless youth that need and appropriate shelter. This needs to be addressed ASAP

SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 4:34:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana K. Anderson	Testifying on behalf of Friends of Youth Outreach	Support	No

Comments:

As a Board member of Friends of Youth Outreach and RYSE [Residential Youth Empowerment Service] I am urging you to pass SB2791. We urgently need legislation in support of homeless youth services and programs, particularly an access center at Kawaihoa for youth at risk. Thank you.

SB-2791

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:44:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/14/2018 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Balkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: