

Senator Gilbert S.C Keith - Agaran Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Candace Young, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

February 6, 2017

Support for SB No. 791, Relating to Property Damage

Aloha,

My name is Candace Young and I am a senior attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of social work. I give my full support to SB No.791, after reading the proposed bill I whole heartedly agree that there has been an increased presence of graffiti that can be found all over the island of Oahu. The presence of graffiti is truly grotesque and the ultimate form of defilement. While reading the proposed bill, it stated that incidents like the Moanalua high school vandalism case is one of the reasons why this bill is so necessary. As a Moanalua high school alumni, hearing about the vandalism was truly saddening and very reflective about the youth today. Graffiti's presence has even encompassed the Moanalua gardens residential area as well. As a resident of the Moanalua area, I have noticed an increased amount of graffiti found on various walls and streets. Growing up in Moanalua for 21 years I have not once seen graffiti amongst the residential area until recent years.

Having a harsher punishment and creating a separate offense for criminal property damage specifically dealing with graffiti, will hopefully give more of an incentive to not vandalize our beautiful island. Graffiti is not only disrespectful, it also devalues property and requires more man power and funding to clean up. With so many issues surrounding Hawaii including poverty, increased number of homeless citizens, high cost of living and limited land, graffiti is one issue that we can easily eliminate or at least diminish by harshening the punishments.

Categorizing graffiti as a separate offense will hopefully alleviate the increased amount of graffiti found all over the island. By not creating harsher punishments vandalizers will continue to deface our island and further devalue our homes. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Candace Young

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**SB791**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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