



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

**Date:** 04/04/2018  
**Time:** 10:45 AM  
**Location:** 016  
**Committee:** Senate Judiciary

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 011, SD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND JUDICIARY TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY STATE YOUTH NETWORK OF CARE TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH AND FAMILIES WITH COMPLEX NEEDS IN THE STATE.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 11, SD1 to permanently establish the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care.

The Department is committed to our continued interagency work and collaboration with the Departments of Health and Human Services, and the Judiciary to best support the needs of Hawaii's most vulnerable children and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 011, SD1.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 3, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 11 SD1/SR 10 SD1 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND JUDICIARY TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY STATE YOUTH NETWORK OF CARE TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH AND FAMILIES WITH COMPLEX NEEDS IN THE STATE.**

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 10:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports these resolutions. DHS is committed to continue to work together to improve systems and processes to address the complex needs of Hawaii's children and families, especially those children involved in multiple systems. DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) Branch, and the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) have been participating partners with the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HI-SYNC), and recognizes the value of consistent collaboration among child-serving agencies of the state to best meet the needs of the children, youth, and families served by these systems.

As a department, DHS serves one in four of Hawaii's residents and nearly half of its children. The programs we implement support residents' ability to achieve well-being in a holistic sense. We address key elements of well-being such as financial assistance, access to insurance coverage and healthcare, access to food and nutrition, child care and early childhood learning opportunities, public housing, homelessness, juvenile justice, support services for families experiencing domestic violence, protective services for children and

vulnerable adults, and employment opportunities and vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities.

We are working diligently to incorporate 'Ohana Nui, a multigenerational framework that invests early and concurrently in children and families within our department, with other state agencies, and with community stakeholders, to improve health, education, employment, and other outcomes for Hawaii residents. This approach will allow us to more efficiently align programs and funding to make a greater impact on the whole person and the whole family.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto: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

April 2, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

**TESTIMONY IN ASTRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 11 SD 1/SR 10 SD URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND JUDICIARY TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH AND PARTICPATE IN THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY STATE YOUTH NETWORK OF CARE TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH AND FAMILIES WITH COMPLEX CARE NEEDS IN THE STATE**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SCR 11/SR 10

The Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HI-SYNC) is a group of professionals from child-serving agencies and organizations who work collaboratively to improve child wellness in all its dimensions.

HI-SYNC is focused on improving outcomes for children, youth and families

- Through continuous review and analysis of data to identify areas for system improvement,
- The recommendation of policies to address system barriers, collaboration, coordination, integration of services and resources,
- Planning on joint treatment and management of specific cases, and,
- Problem-solving around multi-agency challenges.

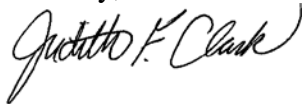
What do we mean by complex care needs? Imagine a youth who is in foster care because he was sexually abused by a family member. He is receiving mental health services from Dept. of Health; is enrolled in special education due to a learning disability; and is on juvenile probation due to violent behavior toward another student. How do families negotiate this complex system of care? How do the multiple organizations providing services ensure that services are coordinated, and needs are met?

On the local level, HI-SYNC ensures that the needs of individual children and families are addressed. State-level participants work together to address policy and legal barriers that impede delivery of high quality services.

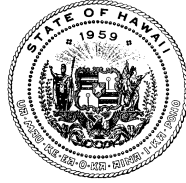
HI-SYNC is a dynamic and effective effort to improve quality and coordination of services to our children and youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR0011, SD1**

Urging the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Judiciary to Permanently Establish and Participate in the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care to Better Serve Youth and Families with Complex Needs in the State.

SENATOR BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: April 4, 2018, 10:45 a.m. Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** No new funds are requested. This collaboration is jointly supported within  
2 the partners' existing resources.

3 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this resolution is to encourage the Department of  
4 Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services and the Judiciary to  
5 permanently establish and participate in the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care to  
6 better serve youth with complex needs and their families across the state. The Hawaii  
7 Interagency State Youth Network of Care ("HISYNC") committee is comprised of high-level  
8 representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human  
9 Services and the Judiciary. HISYNC works to ensure that Hawaii's child-serving system is well-  
10 aligned and coordinated to help youth with multi-agency, complex needs and their families. In  
11 order to effectuate this goal, the committee aligns policies and programs to better serve Hawaii's  
12 children; assembles cross-system datasets to assess whether the state's child-serving agencies are  
13 achieving their missions and desired outcomes; and serves as a multi-agency forum where  
14 particularly complicated or troublesome cases can be brought forward for coordinated treatment  
15 planning.

16 The Hawaii Interagency Local Youth Network of Care committees ("HILYNCS") are  
17 local/regionally-based multi-agency committees that are comprised of similar child-serving

1 agencies as the state committee, but are primarily focused on furthering cross-system  
2 collaboration at the local level.

3 The Department of Health has taken a leadership role in the development of the HISYNC and  
4 HILYNC committees. The HISYNC group is co-chaired by the Division Administrator of the  
5 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, and leaders from three other divisions:  
6 Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Early Intervention, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADAD)  
7 are attending regularly, along with the Deputy Director for Behavioral Health or her  
8 representative. As a result, the Department strongly supports passage of this resolution, which  
9 would provide legislative validation of these efforts.

10 Mechanisms that further state-level and local-level collaboration are vital to ensure a well-  
11 coordinated system of care. Families of youth with complex needs frequently suffer because of  
12 the need to involve a number of state agencies and the lack of options for integrated care. A  
13 seamless system of care has numerous positive outcomes for children and youth, including  
14 improvements in school attendance and grades; increases in stable living situations; and  
15 decreases in behavioral health challenges, suicide rates, substance use, and juvenile justice  
16 involvement. The HISYNC and the HILYNC committees enhance Hawaii's system of care by  
17 ensuring that policies, programs and services are better coordinated for youth with complex  
18 needs and their families. Encouraging state agencies to send representatives to the HISYNC and  
19 HILYNC committees will ensure alignment of the child-serving system and help develop more  
20 opportunities for youth and families across the state to receive the coordinated care they deserve.

21 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SCR-11-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:49:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/4/2018 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for the Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: