

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

Collins Consulting, LLC

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 Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care

Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together

(PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

February 20, 2019

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

And members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 158 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN ITS CURRICULUM AND SUICIDE PREVENTION AS PART OF THE IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS.

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HR 158 Requesting the Department of Education to Include Mental Health Education for Students in its Curriculum and Suicide Prevention as Part of the In-Service Training of Teachers and Principals.

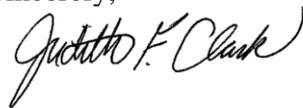
.Suicide prevention was one of the top priorities that youth who attended the Children and Youth Summit last October felt the Hawaii Legislature needs to address.

Nearly a quarter of Hawaii's middle school students and sixteen percent (16%) of Hawaii high school students seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. Twelve percent (12%) of middle school students and ten percent (10%) of high school students have made a suicide attempt according to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Early intervention, education, and prevention efforts can save lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

Executive Director

LATE



O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 58 and HR 59

To the Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HCR 58 and HR 59. The O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities (“OCDCLP”) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HCR 58 and HR 59.**

HCR 58 and HR 59 request the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Education, to develop a mobile application for reporting child abuse and neglect.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i (“DPH”) is committed to ending the scourge of violence against [children and] women - wherever it occurs – whether in our homes, streets, schools, military, workplace, or elsewhere. DPH will support comprehensive services for survivors and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school campuses. DPH will fight to bring an end to [child abuse and neglect, and] sexual assault – wherever in occurs, including on campuses – because everyone deserves a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support to survivors and ensure a fair process for all . . . in the criminal justice system. We will increase violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent and bystander intervention . . . *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 15, ln. 21-28.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to provide comprehensive support to survivors and to ensure a fair process for all, OCDCLP supports HCR 58 and HR 59 and urges their passage out of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities

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HR-158

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 1:56:54 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/27/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darcie Yukimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Kauai Resilience Project - A community-based work group for suicide prevention and increased resiliency in youth

Friday, March 22, 2019

Support for HR 158, Relating to Mental Health Education and Suicide Prevention training for Department of Education

As a professional and lay member of the community, a topic of conversation that continues to be brought up is the concern for our youth, particularly around recent suicides among young people. Our community is concerned that young people on Kauai, a beautiful island with a tight knit community, can have such little hope.

In response, I along with a diverse group of community leaders created the Kauai Resilience Project to address this lack of home and reinforce the message to young people that they are needed, they have purpose and a place in our community. Part of our work included focus groups among teens in middle and high schools. What we heard was heart-breaking, teens said they don't feel valued by our community, there is no place for them and they felt "stuck" there was no one to turn to with their biggest problems.

A tight knit community can have it's challenges. When everyone knows eachother, especially in a rural and relatively poor community, your reputation and "family name" might be all that you have, so people protect it by hiding anything that is not praiseworthy. Mental health issues are stigmatized and the issue is compounded

because we are highly under resourced in the area of access to mental health professionals.

I believe that HR 158 is a large step in the direction of reducing stigma around mental health and offers the opportunity to help students suffering from mental health issues or suicide ideation. I would highly support this bill and would urge the committee to pass HR 158. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important matter.

Kanoa M. Lee
leekanoa@hawaii.edu

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Chair: Sylvia Luke (FIN) and Joy A. San Buenaventura (HSH)

Vice chair: Ty J. K. Cullen (FIN) and Nadine K. Nakamura (HSH)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

8:30 AM

Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT for HR158

Aloha Chair(s) and Vice Chair(s),

My name is Kanoa Lee and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am in strong support for HR158 which is requesting the department of education to include mental health education for students in its curriculum and suicide prevention as part of the in-service training of teachers and principals.

From personal observation, suicide is becoming more and more common with the world getting crazier. Almost weekly, if not daily, one can flip on a news station and hear about someone committing suicide. Regardless of age, this bill would allow preventative strategy to form and help our keiki learn about the resources they have and how to handle feelings paired with suicidal ideation. For something as horrifying as suicide, the earlier we start educating our keiki, the better chances we have of suicide rates not increasing or even lessening.

I am in strong support for HR158 which is requesting the department of education to include mental health education for students in its curriculum and suicide prevention as part of the in-service training of teachers and principals.

Thank you for your time.