



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

March 11, 2019

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 1019 SD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Hearing: Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

OFFICE'S POSITION: The 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 a continuum of care system to engage in needed services. Programs and services include assessment centers, outreach and advocacy, and 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. Safe Places would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth.

OYS is currently convening a work group to review and address status offense reform in three primary areas: practice, policy, and system level. The work group involves stakeholders, including Judiciary, Police, Department of Education, Attorney General, and community-based agencies, and will prioritize and make recommendations to improve the community's response to status offenses, including possible statutory changes. OYS currently funds assessment centers and diversion programs, and additional resources would enhance and strengthen the community's response to status offenses.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to establish and appropriate funds for safe places for youth pilot program. Requires and appropriates funds for the Office of Youth Services to reduce the use of status offense laws and implement a status offense diversion program.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



March 8, 2019

House's Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 31, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.

RE: SUPPORT w/ Concerns for Senate Bill 1019 SD 1 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Nakamura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in SUPPORT but with concerns for Senate Bill 1019 SD 1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 1019 SD 1 would establish & appropriate funds for a safe places for youth pilot program. Requires & appropriates funds for the office of youth services to reduce the use of status offense laws & implement a status offense diversion program.

On the average night 125 minors sleep on the streets of Honolulu, the 11th largest city in the US, without any support from the government or families. Out of the 11th largest cities Honolulu is the only city not to have a "safe haven" (shelter for homeless unaccompanied minors). The only support available homeless unaccompanied minors is 'Youth Outreach' a drop-in shelter located in Waikiki that is open 4 days a week & 3 hours a day. We have no reliable information for homeless unaccompanied minors for the neighbor islands due to the lack on any services. The LGBT Caucus understands that SB 1019 would not rectify these situations but it is a start.

The LGBT Caucus is concerned with the "safe places" portion of the bill. Given that these public places of business will not have back-ground checks on their employees that are required for all other organization that work with youth like YO (Youth Outreach) & RYSE (Residential Youth Services & Empowerment) are required to do.

The LGBT Caucus hopes that this pilot project will lead to the state funding a "safe haven" shelter for homeless unaccompanied minors on every island. If we are going to hope to end homelessness we need to head it off before it begins. Homeless unaccompanied minors will become homeless adults at a far greater rate than their peers.

If SB 1019 SD 1 moves forward the LGBT Caucus requests that all identified physical "safe places" be required to be supportive of the LGBTQIA community. Besides be required by Hawaii's public accommodations law but also the fact that while the LGBTQIA community accounts for about 10% of the overall population, 40% of all homeless unaccompanied minors identify as LGBTQIA.

The LGBT Caucus of the DPH asks that you support SB 1019 SD 1 as it will help to protect the all of Hawaii's homeless unaccompanied minors.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 7:00:55 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

I'm in strong support for SB1019. We need to do more to help all our children. This bill is another step in the process. Please pass SB1019. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. , Board Member

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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

March 10, 2019

Representative Joy San Buaenaventura, Chair

And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1019SD 1 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 1019 SD 1 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the youth who attended the Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol several years ago. It was voted the top priority for legislative action for 3 years in a row indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Nearly half of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for status offenses such as running away from home or being truant from school. They run away or skip school because they have untreated mental health and substance abuse needs; experience abuse, violence or bullying; or other issues that are not best resolved by a law enforcement approach. Our youth want and need safe places in the community where youth can seek help before they get in trouble with the law.

It takes a 'Ohana to raise a child and the Safe Places Network and the proposed status offender diversion project 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 resources are already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability; conduct outreach so that youth, families, and service providers are aware of the program and know how to use it; provide training of youth workers; and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

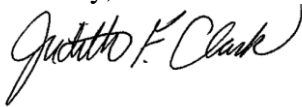
The 24-hour crisis response system will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies will be trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour crisis response site assess the situation. They will notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Services, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

After the immediate crisis response, youth-serving agencies will follow-up to 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

March 10, 2019

To: Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

From: Laura Nevitt, Policy Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **S.B. 1019— RELATING TO YOUTH.**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, March 13, 2019, 8:30 AM

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. We SUPPORT S.B. 1019, which would establish and appropriate funds for a safe places for youth pilot program. Requires and appropriates funds for the office of youth services to reduce the use of status offense laws and implement a status offense diversion program.

* The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the youth who attended the Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol several years ago. It was voted the top priority for legislative action for 3 years in a row indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

* Young people run away or skip school because they have untreated mental health and substance abuse needs; experience abuse, violence or bullying; or other issues that are not best resolved by a law enforcement approach.

* 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 resources are already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability; conduct outreach so that youth, families, and service providers are aware of the program and know how to use it; provide training of youth workers; and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

* The 24-hour crisis response system 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 will be trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour crisis response site assess the situation. They will notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Services, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

For these reasons, HCAN asks that you pass S.B 1019.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

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Lindsay Norcross Mist

Nadine Tenn Salle, M.D.

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: March 13, 2019

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1019 S.D. 1
Relating to Youth

Good morning Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports S.B. 1019 S.D. 1.

According to the Department of the Attorney General's Juvenile Delinquency Trends in Hawai'i Data Book for 2007 – 2016, more than half of arrests of children in the State of Hawai'i during that time period were for status offenses like skipping school and running away from home.

Children often run away from home and skip school in response to traumatic events in their lives, such as experiencing physical abuse, sexual violence, and neglect, or due to unaddressed behavioral health and substance abuse issues. Consequently, these children need supportive services and safety to heal and recover, rather than involvement in the criminal justice system.

By establishing and appropriating funds for a safe places for youth program, and by directing the Office of Youth Services to take steps to reduce the use of status offense laws and implement a diversion program, this measure will help to ensure that children in Hawai'i are able to get the help they need before they get into trouble with the law, avoiding further trauma and victimization.

Therefore, we ask that the Committee please pass this important measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1019 S.D. 1.



SB 1019, SD 1, RELATING TO YOUTH

MARCH 13, 2019 · HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES AND
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JOY A.
SAN BUENAVENTURA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports SB 1019, SD1, relating to youth, which establishes and appropriates funds for a safe places for youth pilot program, and requires and appropriates funds for the office of youth services to reduce the use of status offense laws and implement a status offense diversion program.

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 135 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.

nakamura1 - Nichol

From: KAKOU <tylerdst@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:04 AM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: SB1019 SD1



Dear Representatives,


On the average night 125 minors sleep on the streets of Honolulu, the 11th largest city in the US, without any support from the government or families. Out of the 11th largest cities Honolulu is the only city not to have a “safe haven” (shelter for homeless unaccompanied minors). The only support available homeless unaccompanied minors is ‘Youth Outreach’ a drop-in shelter located in Waikiki that is open 4 days a week & 3 hours a day. We have no reliable information for homeless unaccompanied minors for the neighbor islands due to the lack on any services. We understand that SB 1019 would not rectify these situations but it is a start.

I am concerned with the “safe places” portion of the bill, given that these public places of business will not have background checks on their employees that are required for all other organization that work with youth like YO (Youth Outreach) & RYSE (Residential Youth Services & Empowerment) are required to do.

I hope that this pilot project will lead to the state funding a “safe haven” shelter for homeless unaccompanied minors on every island. If we are going to hope to end homelessness we need to head it off before it begins. Homeless unaccompanied minors will become homeless adults at a far greater rate than their peers.

If SB 1019 moves forward, I request that all identified physical “safe places” be required to be supportive of the LGBTQIA community. Besides be required by Hawaii’s public accommodations law but also the fact that while the LGBTQIA community accounts for about 10% of the overall population, 40% of all homeless unaccompanied minors identify as LGBTQIA.

Mahalo,
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
801 South St #4625, HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813

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SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 5:27:40 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 4:08:26 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2019
TIME: 8:30am
Conference Room 329
PLACE: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SB1019 SD1

POSITION: SUPPORT SB019 SD1

This bill in good faith for providing the appropriates funds for a safe place for youth pilot program. Diversion programs have more efficacy to society then just confinement. Furthermore, the “tough on crime” approach no matter how well intentioned is not working. For example, status offenses and penalties that follow should always be meant to correct behavior and reintegrate youths under the care and custody of Office of Youth Services toward leading a more productive life. The more draconian a law is the more that there is tendency toward rebellion from society and or powers of authority. This is hard sell to persons that believe that the more tough we are the more that the person will “straighten out”. Though this approach may work for some, it has a longer negative affect for other in which we use this approach on and, has shown to be counter-productive to the citizen that we want to have in society. In this care the choices are mutually exclusive; we can have a youth that sees that state only to oppress and have no regard for their life or youth with a troubled past, and undesired behaviors according to society and where the state is there to help support and be a beacon of hope.

Thank you for reading my testimony and it is my hope that this bill will pass from this Committee.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

Board Member, Member CAC, OMPO
Neighborhood Board no 15.
Kalihi-Palama

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:55:37 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 11:42:33 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB768. Growing up gay can be very confusing and scary. Having someone to talk to would be very beneficial for our youth that might be struggling with this issue.

Eileen McKee

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 10:37:16 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Bonnet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:05:43 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meiyi Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

RE: Support for SB1019 SD1, Relating to Youth

My name is Meiyi Wong, and I am a Bachelor's of Social Work student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I currently work with adults who are homeless and living with severe mental illness, and am interning with a nonprofit which provides peer support groups to grieving and traumatized youth. My experience working with these populations compels me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1019 SD1.

Homeless youth and those who commit status offenses are among the most at-risk groups in Hawai'i. Nearly all have experienced trauma, such as child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence, which increases their susceptibility to substance use, mental health issues leading up to and including suicide, and sex trafficking. It is imperative that these youth have physical safe places to which they can retreat, where they can receive the support, nurturing, and guidance they both need and deserve. Street-identified and runaway youth greatly benefit from wraparound services delivered by competent practitioners. Studies show that for children exposed to adversity, the presence of just one supportive adult in their lives fosters resiliency and a sense of self-efficacy. Many of the youth whom this bill concerns have no positive adult mentor to model prosocial behavior. Early intervention also reduces the likelihood of at-risk youth encountering problems later in life, such as incarceration, addiction, felonious crime, and chronic homelessness.

I recommend that both the "safe places for youth" and diversion pilot programs **extend the eligibility age limit to at least age 24**. Once a youth turns 18, they are automatically disqualified from many social services. In the absence of both governmental and familial support, with little knowledge of how to navigate adulthood, these youth are perhaps at their most vulnerable. Youth in their late teens and early twenties desperately need programs such as those proposed by SB1019, which currently only includes those under eighteen.

My second recommendation is that the **individuals who staff these programs be required to undergo comprehensive background checks, in addition to being thoroughly trained in trauma-informed care and LGBTQ+ affirmative practices**. It is an unfortunate reality that some social workers take advantage of their positions to exploit and abuse their clients, and traumatized, displaced youth are easy targets. A

trauma-informed, strengths-based approach will increase service providers' efficacy and youth's responsiveness to these programs. In regard to affirmative practices, disproportionate numbers of LGBTQ+ youth are homeless and face additional oppressions because of their sexuality. It is critical that staff persons be knowledgeable of LGBTQ issues and demonstrate their allyship with this population.

If we are to tackle Hawaii's homelessness crisis, we must include our youth. This is not only a practical strategy, but our *kuleana* as a community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1019 SD1, which I anticipate will have significant positive effects for Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Meiyi Wong

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 10:25:15 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1019-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:15:58 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: