

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

ADVISORY BOARD

President
Mimi Beams

Joanne H. Arizumi

Andre Bisquera

Kristen Bonilla

Marilyn Carlsmith

Dawn Ching

Senator (ret.)
Suzanne Chun Oakland

Monica Cobb-Adams

Donne Dawson

Dennis Dunn

Steven T. Emura, M.D.

Councilmember
Carol Fukunaga

David I. Haverly

Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Lindsay Norcross Mist

Nadine Tenn Salle, M.D.

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: February 20, 2019

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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
Relating to Youth

Good morning Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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

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.

SB-1019

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 10:26:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



SB 1019, RELATING TO YOUTH

FEBRUARY 20, 2019 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports SB 1019, 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.



February 6, 2019

Senate's Committees on Human Services and Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 30, 2019 – 10:05 a.m.

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keith-Agaran and fellow committee members,

I am writing in SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1019 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 1019 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.

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 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 as it will help to protect the all of Hawaii's homeless unaccompanied minors.

Mahalo nui loa,

LGBT Caucus Testimony is Strong support of
Senate Bill 270 – Relating to Minors

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

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

February 18, 2019

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1019 RELATING TO YOUTH

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

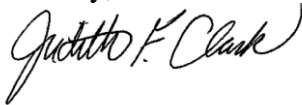
The 24-hour crisis response system will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community 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

February 18, 2019

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committees on Ways and Means

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

Re: **S.B. 1019– RELATING TO YOUTH.**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, February 20, 2019, 10:05 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.