

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 2, 2020

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2335– RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**

Hearing: February 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure that continues the reform of the State's juvenile justice system.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill permits individual vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults only. Establishes the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund. Appropriates funds.

Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2014, initiated juvenile justice reform in Hawaii to improve and enhance Hawaii's juvenile justice system. Working collaboratively cross-sector, there has been a twenty-six per cent reduction in admissions to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility since Act 201 became law.

Act 208, SLH 2018, established the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center at the campus of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, to provide much needed services for at-risk youth and young adults, including victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

Innovative programs have commenced at the Wellness Center, and this program will provide skills building, vocational training, and economic programming to prepare young adults for entry into the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.



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

February 3, 2020

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 2335 - RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the measure. It will allow OYS to create and expand career and vocational programs through the establishment of a revolving fund, that would receive proceeds from sales for products and services generated by young adults participating in these programs. The State will save money by lessening dependence on funding from State resources. There will also be a positive impact for the public through training and learning experiences provided the young adults, who can enter the workforce better prepared and qualified for the workforce.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to establish self-funded commercial enterprise vocational programs within the Office of Youth Services for young adults at risk, and to create a revolving fund within the Office of Youth Services, for the receipt of income and payment of expenses generated from the programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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February 1, 2020

Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Koyayashi, Vice Chair

RE: HB 2335 RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES----IN SUPPORT

Dear Representatives John Mizuno, Bertrand Koyayashi and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2335. This bill is a thoughtful attempt to build on the Legislature's Act 201 which implored the community to improve outcomes for Hawaii's youth in the juvenile justice system and expand community resources.

The programs that comprise the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) strive for many beneficial outcomes that include: maximizing the use of a beautiful and underutilized property (grounds of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), offering a wide range of programming that service providers seek to better respond to the youth and their families, and preventing youth from further juvenile justice involvement and potential incarceration at HYCF.

With support from KYFWC, Hale Kipa provides housing and support services to victims/survivors of sex trafficking on its site. Housing is always in need and this housing (residential vocational program for those young adults (18-24) aging out of the Judicial and foster care systems), coupled with a vocational program is very promising and allows the young person to have a safe place and learn skills that will make a difference in their employability and long-term goal of self-sufficiency. The ability for OYS to create commercial enterprises will allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center to sell its beef and produce on the open market and will provide a foundation for a program that is based on social entrepreneurship, that teaches life skills, further educational goals, vocational skill and building relationships. This program is being developed to be self-supporting and managed by the young adults at all levels.

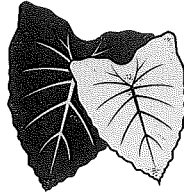
This is a very progressive and exciting endeavor as it continues to strengthen the vision of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center and truly make a difference to some of the most vulnerable young adults.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jaquie Kelley-Uyeoka, MSW
Deputy CEO, Hale Kipa, Inc.



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329
Regarding HB 2335, "A Bill for an Act Relating to Office of Youth Services"

Dear Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I ask that you would **strongly support SB 2891** to allow the Office of Youth Services to create commercial enterprises and authorize a revolving fund to allow the programs to be sustainable. In particular we support Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (former Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to be able to sell its beef and produce on the open market. We have worked with Administrator Mark Patterson and his staff for the past two years on this campus and have found them to be extremely dedicated, accountable and above board in seeking the best solutions for the youth being served.

Kawailoa plans to create Hale Mololani, a residential vocational program on its campus for the at-risk 18-24 year old youth who have aged out of the judicial and foster care systems but lack the means to be self-sufficient. The program will provide valuable services through its experiential learning program including basic life skills, promote work ethic, education, vocational skills and assist them in building community relationships. SB 2891 will enable Kawailoa to improve outcomes for these vulnerable youth and young adults positively impacting the greater community of our island state. **I ask that you support HB2335.**

Me ke aloha.

Jan E. Hanohano Dill
President

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

9:00 am - Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 2335 - OYS - SALES BY YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON** and all the people who have died under the "care and custody" of the state including the ten people who died in the last 5 months of 2019 and for **JAMES BORLING-SALAS** who was beaten and died on January 16th. We also remember the approximately 5,200 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day and we are always mindful that more than 1,200 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad - thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 2335 permits individual vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults only. Establishes the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund. Appropriates funds.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure that is a critical component for the future of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) established on the campus of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility through Act 208, SLH 2018. The ability for the Office of Youth Services to create commercial enterprises at KYFWC will support a residential vocational program for those young adults (18-24) aging out of the Juvenile Justice and foster care systems.

Providing training based on social entrepreneurship, effective life skills, educational achievement, employable skills, and building social support networks in the communities they will be reentering is crucial for youth who have aged out of the system. It is our understanding that this program is intended to be self-supporting and managed by the young adults at all levels, serving to enhance their self-esteem, provide a sense of hope, and offer opportunities they might not otherwise have available to them in their rehabilitation process.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to pass this important bill onto FIN.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of our youth!

HB-2335

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:54:02 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Umemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support for the passage of HB2335. I was a professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for 22 years and now teach at UCLA in Urban Planning and Asian American Studies. My field of expertise is in positive youth development and I have been doing research and planning work in youth violence and juvenile justice for almost 25 years. Youth at risk of arrest and incarceration face the many behavioral, familial, psychological and economic challenges that I and other researchers have documented over the years. One of the most critical gaps in services along the continuum of care is vocational training, especially within a setting that is created to support this particular population. I was the planning facilitator for the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center conceptual plan and am very familiar with many of the individuals involved in this effort at the Hawaii Office of Youth Services. I believe that they have the vision, goodwill for partnerships, knowledge of and access to the field expertise, and commitment to the youth that is required to successfully implement the commercial enterprise for which this bill would allow. The enterprise handled from a therapeutic approach can be critical to the development of technical skills, knowledge, self-esteem, social abilities, character development, and other aspects of growth that can prepare youth to overcome many of the personal hurdles they face and lead a successful life along a pono path. The benefits of such a program are immeasurable and in reach with the support that I hope the legislature will commit.

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

From: Patrick Uchigakiuchi, Ph.D.
1448 Young Street, #1109
Honolulu, HI 96814
Ph.: 808.375.6114

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Subject: Support for H.B. No. 2335, Relating to Office of Youth Services

As a clinical psychologist and Affiliate Faculty member at the University of Hawaii, Social Science Research Center with formal training focused on child and adolescent clinical psychology, and as a researcher and program evaluator involving projects at the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Center, Kapolei Juvenile Detention Facility, Hawai'i State Department of Health – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Department, and the Hawaii State Department of Public Safety, I am writing in strong support of H.B. 2335, Relating to Office of Youth Services. Passage of this bill will permit individual vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults at risk.

H.B. 2335 is a critical component for the future of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) toward becoming a more effective and sustainable rehabilitation-focused program for young adults at risk due to involvement in the juvenile justice system, law enforcement, or other “young adults at risk” as corrected in this bill, and who are seeking positive pathways to meaningful work and satisfactory quality of life as a young adult. More specifically, the ability for the Office of Youth Services to create commercial enterprises at KYFWC will support a residential vocational program for those at risk young adults to achieve the level of self-sufficiency and independence necessary to earn a living wage and create a meaningful life outside of criminal behaviors. The ability to engage in commercial enterprises as part of rehabilitation programs through KYFWC will provide a foundation for young adults based on social entrepreneurship, effective life skills, educational achievement, employable skills, and important social support networks in the communities they will be reentering. This program is being developed to be self-supporting and managed by the young adults at all levels, serving to enhance their self-esteem, provide a sense of hope, and offer opportunities they might not otherwise have available to them in their rehabilitation process.

In expanding these types of critical and innovative opportunities for the program's targeted at risk young adults, we will be creating a positive, health and wellness-focused program, as well as hope and meaningful opportunities for those disadvantaged and disconnected young adults as they strive to achieve financial independence through meaningful jobs and careers. I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 2335. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Patrick Uchigakiuchi

HB-2335

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 3:17:21 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HB 2335 RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES BEFORE THE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

February 5, 2020
9:00 am
Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness, **my name is Lilinoe Kauahikaua, I am a Masters of Social Work Candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am here today to support HB2335 relating to to the Office of Youth Services, Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund; Commercial Enterprise Vocational Programs.**

In my current study as a Master's of Social work Candidate, I have focused primarily on the over-representation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system, those currently incarcerated, and those housed in out of state facilities. I am called to this work because of my own experiences with incarceration, and substance abuse, and homelessness.

I have had the opportunity to visit Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KTFWC) on multiple occasions. KTFWC is changing the way we approach early predictors and contributing factors to juvenile delinquency. KYFWC instead centers on reframing the narrative, diverting focus away from deficit-based understanding, and instead, developing increased emphasis and interventions that focus on positive youth development that contribute to preferred outcomes.

HB2335 is a crucial element in the future of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center. The ability for OYS to create commercial enterprises will allow KYFWC to create a residential vocational program for those young adults (18-24) aging out of the Judicial and foster care system. Many of these youth may have no familial structure to fall back on. Vocational training instills a sense of confidence and independence for youth, building skills they are able to then apply to the job market and thrive through a deeper sense of self-determination and improve their chances of economic stability once released.

Unlike strictly trade programs, this program will allow youth to gain valuable skills through a wide range of vocational applications based on social entrepreneurship. These applications will allow them to flourish, learning life skills, inspiring further educational aspirations, and building both personal and professional relationships.

HB2335 would give our youth a fighting chance to show us just how resilient they are.

HB-2335

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:34:12 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: