



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

February 11, 2019

TO: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 1019 Relating to Youth

Hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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 in order 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.

The Honorable Russell Ruderman

The Honorable Karl Rhoads

February 11, 2019

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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.

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney

Jennifer S. Winn
First Deputy



Rebecca A. Vogt Like
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Diana Gausepohl-White
Victim/Witness Program Director

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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**THE HONORABLE RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawai'i**

February 12, 2019

RE: S.B. 1019: RELATING TO YOUTH.

Chair Ruderman, Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kauai, submits this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of S.B. 1019 – Relating to Youth.

This purpose of this Bill is to establish and appropriate funds for a safe places for youth pilot program, to require and appropriates funds for the Office of Youth Services to reduce the use of status offense laws and implement a status offense diversion program.

Our Office strongly believes in finding alternatives to the criminal justice system for at-risk youth. Youth who commit status offenses are generally in need of services and support rather than punishment. The criminal justice system works slowly and inefficiently when these youth need immediate assistance, not stigmatization. We have made great strides in our juvenile justice system over the past decade. Hawai'i is a national leader in this area. This is the next step in that leadership evolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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 6, 2019

Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

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 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.

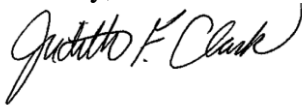
The 24-hour crisis response system will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community 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 6, 2019

Senate's Committees on Human Services and Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

RE: **SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1019** – RELATING TO YOUTH

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Rhoads 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 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,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HARM REDUCTION HAWAII

c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205

Honolulu, HI 96822

February 7, 2019

RE: SB1019 to be heard Tuesday February 12, 2019, in Room 016, at 10:00 AM

SUPPORT

To the members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Human Services

There is a bit of fuss over sex trafficking in this year's session. A clear need is more things that aim to reduce the problems of vulnerable youth. Low threshold services that this marginalized population can access without a lot of paperwork, approvals, etc., are a clear need. This bill aims to allow easier service access that may also lead to better relations with young people who are often distrustful of a system they believe has failed them.

Aloha



Tracy Ryan
For Harm Reduction Hawaii

SB-1019

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:49:16 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 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

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:24:30 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Committee members of the Senate HMS/JDC,

I am a psychologist and family therapist and have treated youth and families for over 30 years. I worked with youth who were detained because of truancy, chaotic family lives, little support from the extended family, and neurocognitive difficulties that might be attributed to prenatal drug exposure and trauma. These children need a safe place, a place to heal, not detention or incarceration.

I fully support any bill that would divert children and their families from the court system into treatment, or from the court system into treatment.. I've long thought a safe place with family therapy would help. The family therapy would encompass the environment of the child including supportive schooling, economic help to the family, treatment for family members who need help, etc. The problems of truancy or status offenses are the tip of an ice berg of what is needed to help a child grow and flourish.

With gratitude,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

SB-1019

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:28:02 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support for SB1019. We need to make a positive approach to assist those homeless youth under 18 years of age who live on the streets at night. I believe that those under 18 should have a place to go at night where they are safe and, hopefully, receive services that will help improve their current situation.

Although I submit my testimony as an individual, I am on the board of Rainbow Family 808 and we help provide weekly donations of dairy, fruit, vegetables and other items to Youth Outreach (YO) and Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE). Working with these organizations, we understand that at least 125 youth are living on the streets of Oahu. I am also a member of the LBGT Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawaii, which also supports funding a youth shelter.

Please pass SB1019 to get a pilot program moving forward. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

SB-1019

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:23:25 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1019

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 8:25:45 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/12/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keisha Pagdilao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1019

RELATING TO YOUTH

Senator Rhoads, Senator Chang, Senator Harimoto, Senator Baker, Senator Kim, Senator Shimabukuro

Senate committees on Human Services and Judiciary

Hearing date: February 12, 2019

Room number: 016

My name is Keisha Pagdilao and I am a Master's of Social work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, an Oahu Hospital employee and a practicum student at a non-profit juvenile diversion program. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of S.B 1019 relating to providing youth with a safe place through a pilot program. I have almost 10 years work experience giving back to Hawai'i community, primarily working with both youth and adults directly affected with Mental Health Issues.

I have worked with youth who suffer from the haunting thoughts of suicide, traumatized by physical and sexual abuse from a family members and feel the only way out is to run as far away from home as humanly possible. I have personally seen the horrific consequences of youth who have lived on the streets and continue to suffer from the long term effects of survival living. I understand the greater risk these youth have in relation to severe depression, anxiety and trauma as well as the increased likelihood of exchanging sex for basic human needs such as food, water, shelter, and clothing.

I am in full support of SB 1019 establishing a pilot project to provide a safe haven for those needing stability, safety, and recovery. We must be proactive in helping

those that are seeking help in every way possible. This proposal allows for a collaboration of services and programs to support the youth so desperate for help.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1019, relating to youth.

Sincerely,

Keisha Pagdilao