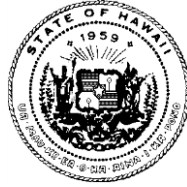


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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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February 19, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Donavan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1230 SD 1 – RELATING TO YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS**

Hearing: February 20, 2019, 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measures that continues the reform of the State's juvenile justice system. DHS appreciates the work of the Committee on Human Services, and has a concern.

The amendment that prohibits adults without a high school diploma or equivalent from participating in the skills building program is too restrictive and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Any adult at risk, seeking services at the facility should be able to participate and pursue their high school equivalency if they choose; those who are eligible for special education services should be able to participate in both programs.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to permit individual non-justice vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sales of goods and services for self-sustainability purposes.

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.

Last session, 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 programing to prepare youth and young adults for entry into the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

SB-1230-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 10:10:49 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: