

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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WRITTEN ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2025 S.D. 1
RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 02/21/2020

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** Strongly support

3 The purpose of this measure is to permit minors, as currently defined in §577A-1, HRS, “from
4 the age of fourteen to seventeen inclusive,” to consent to medical care related to the diagnosis or
5 treatment of HIV or the prevention of HIV. Parents or legal guardians would not be able to
6 abrogate consent. The minor would not be liable for payment.

7 The department strongly supports S.B. 2025 S.D. 1 as it can help prevent HIV acquisition in
8 minors and support critical treatment of minors diagnosed with HIV. Safe, highly effective
9 medications for the treatment and prevention of HIV need to be accessible for all individuals
10 diagnosed with HIV or at high risk of acquiring HIV. Medications to be taken to prevent HIV
11 have recently become available.

12 Current statutes do not appear to permit a minor to consent to this preventive care. This is a
13 critical gap in access to medical care. This measure would resolve this gap. Permitting minors
14 who cannot or will not seek the consent of their parents or guardians to consent to HIV medical

1 care is essential to the health of the minor and a valuable step in ending the HIV epidemic in
2 Hawaii.

3 The department appreciates amendments in this measure to update archaic terminology in
4 §577A, HRS, by replacing “venereal diseases” with “sexually transmitted infection.”

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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February 21, 2020 - 2:45 p.m.

Senate Committees on Human Services & Commerce
Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street - Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support For SB 2025

To Chair Ruderman, Chair Baker, and fellow committee members;

The Trevor Project writes to support HB 2025, which permits minors to consent to medical care related to the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning) young people. We work to save young lives by providing support through free and confidential suicide prevention and crisis intervention programs available by our 24/7 phone lifeline, chat, and text services; TrevorSpace, the world's largest safe space social networking site for LGBTQ youth; and through our innovative education, research, and advocacy programs.

From our 2019 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health we know that only 68% of LGBTQ young people disclose their sexual orientation to their parents and only 51% of transgender or nonbinary youth share their gender identity. Accessing life-saving HIV prevention services should not be reliant upon sharing one's sexual orientation or gender identity, including with parents and/guardians. This bill is not intended to disrupt meaningful and supportive parental and family relationships, but it gives youth the opportunity to seek care without fear of stigma or other barriers to care.

For these reasons, we support HB 2052. Should you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance regarding this matter, please contact me at 202-768-4413 or Sam.Brinton@TheTrevorProject.org.

Sincerely,



Sam Brinton
Head of Advocacy and Government Affairs
The Trevor Project



February 15, 2020

Senate's Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2020 – 10:45 a.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2025 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2025 Senate Draft 1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. SB 2025 SD 1 permits minors over fifteen years of age to consent to medical care related to the diagnosis or treatment of HIV or the prevention of HIV.

Coming out is personal decision and no minor should have to come out to get access to life saving HIV treatment or HIV prevention drugs.

For these reasons the LGBT Caucus fully supports SB 2025 SD 1.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:35:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

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

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

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 16, 2020

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

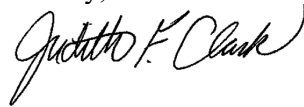
Testimony in Support of SB 2025 SD 1 Relating to Medical Care for Minors

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2025 SD 1 Relating to Medical Care for Minors.

Allowing minors to consent for HIV testing and treatment will reduce risks of HIV transmission and increase likelihood that minors will receive testing and treatment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 2:43:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Testifying for Filipina Advocacy Network FAN	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole, and Senate Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director

DATE: February 21, 2020 (10:45 AM)

RE: ***Strong Support for SB 2025, SD 1***

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports SB 2025, SD 1, which will increase access to HIV medical care for minors. HIV prevention and care have transformed over the past decade and it is essential that young people also have access to these emerging medical interventions so that they can either prevent acquiring HIV or if they are living with it, get the care they need to live well and not transmit the virus to others.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities. We foster health, wellness, and systemic change in Hawai'i and the Pacific through care services, advocacy, training, prevention, education, and capacity building.

HHHRC's roots are working with people living with and at-risk for HIV and has been at the forefront of "Hawai'i to Zero." [Hawai'i to Zero](#) is a coalition of members who are committed to getting to zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related deaths, and zero stigma. SB 2025, SD 1, addresses all three components.

Specifically, HHHRC launched Hawai'i's first PrEP program which provides HIV antiviral to HIV negative people to prevent infection. HHHRC has had to turn away several young people who did not have parental consent for this important drug. This legislation is needed to help younger persons access this medication that can, with safer sex practices, prevent the transmission of HIV from their partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 5:29:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 5:45:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 8:23:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

hiv prevention and care is a very serious matter. Minors may encounter resistance due to their parents' homophobia.

Minors in this situation need to be able to seek treatment without parental consent, if necessary.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 7:46:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:56:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanda Lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a healthcare provider specifically targetting LGBT youth and adults, I see how stigma increases health risks of my patients. We already have legislation allowing contraceptive care for underage youth for similar reasons. We want to ensure young women are able to access contraception and STD treatment and prevention services even if their parents are not supportive. As a result of these protections, our teen pregnancy rates have dropped by 68% on O'ahu over the last 3 decades (<https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/facts-and-stats/national-and-state-data-sheets/adolescent-reproductive-health/hawaii/index.html>)

Now it is critical that we ensure all our teens have the tools to PREVENT HIV transmission as well as to engage in early treatment. Ideally, these conversations and decisions will be made with the input and guidance of a supportive and involved parent. But many teens cannot or do not involve their parents, and some parents are not able to support them in making healthy choices. It is critical to prevent the transmission of a deadly virus.

- Hawaii's gay and bisexual youth are more likely to be at risk for HIV through unprotected sex. (citation: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31205813>)
- The 2014 and 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System found that transgender women and men self-reported a lower prevalence of HIV testing compared with their gay and/or bisexual cisgender counterparts. (citation: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6633a3.htm>)
- Pre Exposure Prophylaxis is an evidence-based medical intervention that effectively prevents HIV and builds rapport with primary care around other sexual health issues. (citation: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5762125/>)
- This bill is not intended to disrupt meaningful and supportive parental and family relationships, but to provide opportunities for those youth facing stigma and discrimination when seeking care.
- This bill is necessary to ensure that at-risk youth who identify as sexual and gender minorities in Hawaii can attain access to life-saving prevention services without fear of stigma or other barriers to care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:11:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:50:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:44:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a gay cisgender man and public health professional, I strongly support this bill.

Data shows that Hawaii's gay and bisexual youth are more likely to be at risk for HIV through unprotected sex. Additionally, the 2014 and 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System found that transgender women and men self-reported a lower prevalence of HIV testing compared with their gay and/or bisexual cisgender counterparts.

We can help young persons at risk for HIV stay safe and healthy through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), an evidence-based medical intervention approved by the FDA and promoted by the CDC to effectively prevent sexual transmission of HIV and to build rapport with primary care around other sexual health issues.

Importantly, this bill is not intended to disrupt meaningful and supportive parental and family relationships, but to provide opportunities for those youth facing stigma and discrimination when seeking care. SB2025 SD1 is necessary to ensure that at-risk youth who identify as sexual and gender minorities in Hawaii can attain access to life-saving prevention services without fear of stigma or other barriers to care.

Thanks for your consideration,

Thaddeus Pham

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:58:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Causha A Spellman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2025 SD1. Hawaii's gay and bisexual youth are more likely to be at risk for HIV through unprotected sex. (citation: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31205813>)

The 2014 and 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System found that transgender women and men self-reported a lower prevalence of HIV testing compared with their gay and/or bisexual cisgender counterparts. (citation: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6633a3.htm>) Pre Exposure Prophylaxis is an evidence-based medical intervention that effectively prevents HIV and builds rapport with primary care around other sexual health issues. (citation: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5762125/>)

This bill is not intended to disrupt meaningful and supportive parental and family relationships, but to provide opportunities for those youth facing stigma and discrimination when seeking care. Minors age 14+ are already allowed to access medical care in reference to reproductive health, let's extend the minor rights to create and even lower barrier system that will allow for minors to consent for HIV care and prevention services without parental consent This bill is necessary to ensure that at-risk youth who identify as sexual and gender minorities in Hawaii can attain access to life-saving prevention services without fear of stigma or other barriers to care.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:22:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon W Duran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HIV prevention and care have transformed over the past decade and it is essential that young people also have access to these emerging medical interventions so that they can either prevent acquiring HIV or if they are living with it, get the care they need to live well and not transmit the virus to others.

As a Christian, I believe I am called to advocate for the marginalized and supporting this bill does just that. Please pass SB2025. Mahalo.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 11:35:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Yang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Below are the reasons why it is important to support this bill:

- Hawaii’s gay and bisexual youth are more likely to be at risk for HIV through unprotected sex. (citation: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31205813>)
- The 2014 and 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System found that transgender women and men self-reported a lower prevalence of HIV testing compared with their gay and/or bisexual cisgender counterparts. (citation: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6633a3.htm>)
- Pre Exposure Prophylaxis is an evidence-based medical intervention that effectively prevents HIV and builds rapport with primary care around other sexual health issues. (citation: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5762125/>)
- This bill is not intended to disrupt meaningful and supportive parental and family relationships, but to provide opportunities for those youth facing stigma and discrimination when seeking care.
- This bill is necessary to ensure that at-risk youth who identify as sexual and gender minorities in Hawaii can attain access to life-saving prevention services without fear of stigma or other barriers to care.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 12:41:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We attempt to teach our children to be careful and informed and use safe sexual guidelines. But in the heat of the moment, those can go by the wayside. It is important that minors can be allowed to receive medical care (diagnosis, treatment, prevention material). And now there are risk reduction means (Pre-Exposure and Prophylaxis) which should be available, also.

Thank you.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:16:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabriel Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the Testing and PrEP Coordinator at Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center, I can see that many clients we serve are above the minor demographic. With the rates of how rare it is for anyone under 25 to even get tested, I think giving the opportunity to our youth to take a stand in their health is extremely important. Most youth have already engaged in sexual activity before they've reached 18. With the opportunity to be able to access prevention tools like PrEP or regular HIV/STI testing, we will a significant drop in contraction.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:23:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:52:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members:

I am writing in my personal capacity to **strongly support** SB 2025, SD 1, which would allow minors to consent for HIV care and prevention services, including access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), without parental consent. Authorizing adolescent access to PrEP will help prevent HIV infection among those who use it, particularly among those who are sexual and gender minorities.

It's an astonishingly dangerous posture of stubborn foolhardiness that Hawaii public schools do not offer comprehensive science-based sexual health education at regular intervals from at least grades 7 through 12. Even with information broadly available on the internet, professional person-to-person instruction from qualified presenters is vital in lowering unwanted pregnancy rates and sexually transmitted infections (STI's).

Hawaii's disproportionately high rates of STI's among youth can be addressed by an embrace of science-based education and additional prevention measures, including the free on-demand distribution of condoms and lube by a school's health office.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 1:23:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Testifying for Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2025-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 9:31:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maddalynn Sesepasara	Testifying for Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments: