

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

March 10, 2020

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2891 - RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 10:00 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.



SB2891 SD1
RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

March 11, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2891 SD1, which would allow the Office of Youth Services to establish a commercial enterprise vocational program for at-risk young adults and establish a revolving fund to collect the proceeds from enterprise activities to self-sustain the program. **The program envisioned by this measure would facilitate the continuing transformation of the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) into the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (Kawaioloa Center), and would allow the Office of Youth Services to provide job training services to a young demographic population in great need of economic opportunity and job skill training: young adults between 18 and 24 who have been involved with the criminal justice system or are experiencing other threats or issues, and who are no longer eligible for child protective services.**

Addressing the needs of youth involved in or at risk of being involved our juvenile and criminal justice systems has been an issue of longstanding concern for OHA. In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system.¹ This report found that Native Hawaiian youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, and are also most frequently arrested in all offense categories.² Since 2012, OHA has also administered the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force (NHJTF), which addressed the multi-faceted issue of Native Hawaiian involvement in the criminal justice system.³ In its report, the NHJTF further acknowledged that “an individual’s contact with the criminal justice system, regardless of race, often begins at youth.”⁴ And in its 2018 Final Report, the HCR85 Task Force on Prison Reform issued a key recommendation to address and counteract the risk of Native Hawaiians’ early involvement in our justice system, imploring the State to develop “early intervention strategies that are focused on diverting Native Hawaiian youth away from the criminal justice system and toward pathways for success.”⁵

¹ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (2010), https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ir_final_web_rev.pdf.

² *Id.* at 68.

³ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT (2012), https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf.

⁴ *Id.* at 21.

⁵ HCR85 TASK FORCE ON PRISON REFORM, FINAL REPORT: CREATING BETTER OUTCOMES, SAFER COMMUNITIES xix (2018) available at https://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/HCR-85-Task-Force-on-Prison-Reform_Final-Report_12.28.18.pdf.

OHA accordingly appreciates and supports this measure, in enabling the implementation and expansion of programming that would further reinforce ongoing efforts to prevent and reduce youth and young adult involvement in our juvenile and criminal justice systems. **OHA in particular appreciates that this measure may substantially reinforce the ongoing efforts of the recently-established Kawaihoa Center, which seeks to address the very concerning findings and recommendations made by the various criminal justice task forces OHA has been involved in or supported over the last decade.**

OHA notes that the Kawaihoa Center has already explored and adopted innovative approaches to serving and rehabilitating at-risk and offending youth that is individual-, family-, and community-focused. These include, for example, services to address the unique challenges faced by youth experiencing homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness, and human trafficking. The Kawaihoa Center also supports broader efforts to reach beyond the walls of the HYCF, where it is located. The Kawaihoa Center houses RYSE, a residential and day program that offers homeless, trafficked, and “street entrenched” young adults access to safe temporary shelter and services and programs in furtherance of their short- and long- term needs and goals. The Kawaihoa Center also houses Kinai ‘Eha, an alternative education program intended to “disrupt the Pathway to Prison” for youth who need an individualized academic approach, and that provides them with a sense of purpose, offers them workforce training, and reinforces Hawaiian cultural connections. **The instant measure would complement and support the Kawaihoa Center’s much-needed and innovative, holistic approaches to addressing the root causes of young and lifelong criminal activity, by authorizing programming that can provide at-risk or formerly criminal justice system involved young adults with continued support even after they have “aged out” of child protective services, through values-based economic opportunities and job training critical to their ongoing rehabilitation and long-term success.**

Notably, by helping to prevent or reduce the risk of young adults’ continued criminal behavior later in life, the commercial enterprise vocational program envisioned in this measure may in itself save the State significant taxpayer dollars in reduced corrections costs over the long-term; meanwhile, the self-funding nature of the program could also enable it to become cost-neutral or nearly cost-neutral in the near future, even without considering these long-term savings.

OHA believes that early-stage therapeutic approaches as well as economic opportunity will help to heal our broken youth and promote success among our young adults; this will result in stronger individuals and families, and will likely provide long-term benefits to public safety and the overall well-being of our communities. In addition, OHA is hopeful that the success of the Kawaihoa Center, and its programs, may also serve as a model for greater reform within our criminal justice system.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2891 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., Conference Room #329
Regarding SB 2891, SD1, "A Bill for an Act Relating to Office of Youth Services"

Dear Chair Buenaventura and Vice Chair Nakamura and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness,

I ask that you would **strongly support SB 2891, SD1** 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 SB2891.

Me ke aloha.

Jan E. Hanohano Dill
President

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNES

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

10 AM - Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2891 SD1 - OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

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 **JAMES BORLING SALAS, 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 eleven (11) people that we know of, who have died in the last six (6) months. We also remind the committee of 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.

Mahalo nui for hearing SB 2891 - this important bill will help our youth navigate their paths to meaningful futures by permitting 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. The SD1 added a definition of the term "commercial enterprise vocational program" to section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Community Alliance on Prisons enthusiastically supports this measure!

Something amazing happens when our youth are valued and when the community's support is evident to them. Projects like this help build self-esteem and confidence in our youth. When young people develop the skills to be successful in the marketplace, they are off and running!

This bill will support the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) on the grounds of the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Center. It gives the Office of Youth Services the ability to create commercial enterprises at KYFWC for youth 18-24 who are transitioning out of the Juvenile Justice and foster care systems and helps youth develop self-sufficiency and independence, marketable skills, goals, and a pathway to a better life

Let's support our youth - open the door of opportunity for them, encourage them, and support them so that they can reach their highest and best potential. Our youth are our future leaders and we support anything that helps them grow into great community contributors!

Mahalo for this opportunity to share Community Alliance on Prisons' undying support for our youth! We urge the committee to pass this measure.

TESTIMONY ON SB2891 SD 1 RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES BEFORE THE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

March 11, 2020
10:00 AM
Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, and members of the House Human Services and Homelessness Committee, **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 SB2891 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.

SB2891 SD 1 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.

SB2891 SD 1 would give our youth a fighting chance to show us just how resilient they are.

SB-2891-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 1:19:20 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

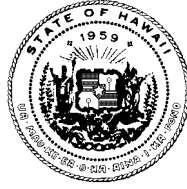
SB-2891-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:21:52 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 10, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2891 – RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**

Hearing: March 11, 2020, 10:00 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. DHS appreciates the substantive amendment of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means that added the definition of the term "commercial enterprise vocational program" to section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Senate measure is the remaining vehicle to add this program.

This Committee amended the House companion HB2335 by removing the general fund appropriation into the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund and the authorization to expend funds from the revolving fund.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes the Office of Youth Services revolving fund. Requires the Office of Youth Services to provide commercial enterprise vocational programs, including the sale of goods and services, to young adults to promote self-sustainability. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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 Kawaihoa 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 young adults for entry into the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

LATE

SB-2891-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 4:55:28 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Buenaventura, Representative Nakamura, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2891 SD1. This bill will support the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) at the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Center. It enables the Office of Youth Services to create commercial enterprises at KYFWC for youth ages 18-24 who are transitioning out of the Juvenile Justice and foster care systems. It helps youth develop self-sufficiency and independence, marketable skills, goals and a pathway to a better life.

This program will give these youth the opportunity to become productive citizens and not be caught up in the criminal justice system because they lack of any means to support themselves when the are released back into the community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu