

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

January 30, 2020

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: January 31, 2020, 2:50 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, 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

January 30, 2020

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

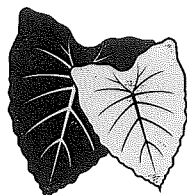
**SUBJECT: SB 2891 - RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**

Hearing: Friday, January 31, 2020 2:50 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**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.



**PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT**  
FOUNDATION

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 2:50 p.m., Conference Room #016  
Regarding SB 2891, "A Bill for an Act Relating to Office of Youth Services"

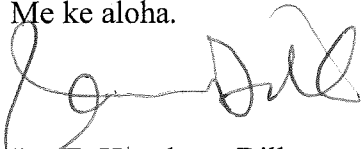
Dear Chair Ruderman and Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

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 SB2891.**

Me ke aloha.

  
Jan E. Hanohano Dill  
President

*Serving Hawai'i's Families, Living Hawaiian Values*

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:19:25 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/31/2020 2:50:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Josiah `Akau	Testifying for Kinai `Eha	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Kinai `Eha supports SB 2891. It is imperative that youth aging out of the judicial and foster system have some sort of transitional plan for reintegration into the community. By having a vocational program that provides life skills and job skills through experiential learning, it will help to prepare the youth to be contributing members of their families and communities. As a program that works with vulnerable youth, we have found that experiential learning, community engagement, and meaningful adult relationships are factors that contribute to our students' success. This population deserves the resources and opportunities to improve their outcomes.

We fully support SB 2891.

Mahalo,

Josiah Akau

Kinai `Eha, Executive Director



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

**SB2891**

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.

DATE: Friday, January 31, 2020  
TIME: 2:50PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committee of Human Services,

My name is Nicole Galase and I am the Managing Director for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. I am writing to **support SB2891 relating to office of youth services.**

HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

The vocational activities at the Kawailoa includes cattle production. The cattle industry, along with many other agricultural industries, struggles to garner interest from younger generations to participate in producing a local food supply. Youth and young adults at risk can benefit from the responsibility and caring for livestock.

We **support SB2891** because it encourages youth to partake in agricultural activities and contributes to increasing local food production.



# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Russell Ruderman, Chair

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Friday, January 31, 2020

2:50 PM – Room 016

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2891 – OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads 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 have died in the last 5 months, as well as 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. 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.

SB 2891 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. We totally support vocational programs for young adults to develop skills to be successful in the marketplace. I have seen young people take such pride in their successes when they are afforded the opportunities to 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 our undying support for our youth! We urge the committee to pass this measure.

TESTIMONY ON SB 2891 RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

January 31, 2020

2:50 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change, and I am here today to support SB 2891 relating to the Office of Youth Services, Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund; Commercial Enterprise Vocational Programs.**

Senators, for the record, Blueprint for Change (BFC) is a non-profit organization that develops and supports community driven programs that help develop healthy and productive children and families. We currently oversee 6 Neighborhood Place programs statewide and manage a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program that provides agricultural related classes to formerly incarcerated Native Hawaiians and their family members through a distance learning medium in partnership with Hawaii Community College.

My staff and I have had the opportunity to visit Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KTFWC) and are impressed with how OYS and Warden Mark Patterson are converting underutilized facilities into a place where adjudicated and at risk youth can find shelter, healing, and sustainable skills.

SB 2891 is a crucial element in the future of the Kawailoa 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.

SB 2891 is part of a great plan to re-invest State resources to help these youth realize their potential and become self-reliant. In the process, they become productive citizens, no longer a burden on the State. We ask for your support. Mahalo.

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

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

Date of Hearing: Friday, January 31, 2020

Subject: Support for S.B. No. 2891, 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, program consultant, and program evaluator with work experiences 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 S.B. 2891, 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 only.

SB 2891 is a critical component for the future of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) toward becoming an effective and sustainable rehabilitation-focused program for youth transitioning out of the Juvenile Justice system and 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 young adults (18-24) aging out of the Juvenile Justice and foster care systems 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 their rehabilitation programs at KYFWC will provide a foundation for youth based on social entrepreneurship, effective life skills, educational achievement, employable skills, and 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 youth aging out of our social services systems, we will be creating a positive, health and wellness-focused program, as well as hope and meaningful opportunities for disadvantaged and disconnected youth as they prepare to reenter their communities and reengage with their families and other support systems. I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 2891. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Patrick Uchigakiuchi



TESTIMONY ON SB 2891 RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

January 31, 2020

2:50 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services, **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 SB 22891 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.

SB 2891 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.

SB 2891 would give our youth a fighting chance to show us just how resilient they are.

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*Deputy CEO*

**Gwen Okamoto**  
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February 1, 2020

Committee on Health and Human Services  
Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

**LATE**

## RE: SB 2891 RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES----IN SUPPORT

Dear Senators Russell E. Ruderman, Karl Rhoads, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2891. 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.

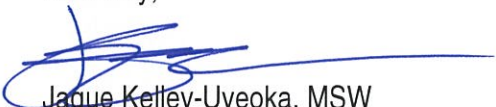
The programs that comprise the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center strive for many beneficial outcomes that include: maximizing the use of a beautiful and underutilized property (grounds of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), offering a wide range of programming that service providers 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.