

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

Carole Gruskin, 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

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

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

March 19, 2021

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 162/HR 138 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, VIA THE BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VIA THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION OF RESPONDENTS.

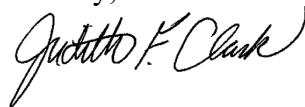
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 162/HR 138 Requesting the Department of Health, Via the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and the Department of Education, Via the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, to Collect Information on the Sex, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Gender Expression of Respondents.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a valuable data tool to track youth behavior that promotes good health and safety as well as risky behavior in which they may engage. It informs policies and programs for children and adolescents in areas such as tobacco, nutrition, sexual health, and substance use.

The 2018 compilation of data on LGBTQ youth provided critically needed data on this subpopulation. Youth-serving organizations need this type of data to identify needs, and plan and implement evidence-informed programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 10:37:46 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maddalynn Seseapasara	HHHRC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 2:08:46 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Hamid	AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

AF3IRM Hawai'i

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 3:01:27 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HR 138. Thank you!



March 22, 2021

Chair Ryan Yamane
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for HR138 - Collection of Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression Data

Dear Chair Yamane

The Trevor Project wishes to express its strong support of HR138, which would request the Department of Health, via the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the Department of Education, via the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System to collect information on the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression of respondents.

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 every day to save young lives by providing support through free and confidential suicide prevention through our 24/7 phone lifeline, chat, and text. We also run TrevorSpace, the world's largest safe space social networking site for LGBTQ youth, and operate innovative education, research, and advocacy programs.

Currently, there is only limited information about LGBTQ youth, particularly transgender, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, and/or intersex youth, because surveys that gather this data do not always ask these important demographic questions. Research has shown that transgender and gender nonconforming youth report higher rates of violence, substance use, suicide risk, and sexual risk behaviors. HR138 would help ensure that the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey are collecting this important demographic data to identify areas of issue, track trends, and ultimately help allocate appropriate resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for mental health care and suicide prevention, especially as social isolation has increased due to physical distancing and other preventative measures. Recent polling by the Trevor Project also shows that 35% of LGBTQ youth report have felt more lonely during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to 22% of their cisgender/straight peers. A higher baseline of vulnerability means that when a stressor occurs, such as COVID-19, those people who are already at higher risk are more likely to find themselves in crisis. Therefore, it is more important than ever for collected data to be comprehensive in order to understand the full nature of youth behaviors as they relate to various



populations, and to ensure that especially vulnerable populations receive the resources and policy attention they need and deserve.

For these reasons and on behalf of the youth who depend upon our services, The Trevor Project strongly supports HR138. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. D. Miller".

Keygan Miller
(They/Them)
Senior Advocacy Associate
The Trevor Project

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 9:41:26 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anika Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. According to researchers Yost and Gilmore in 2011, the voices, stories, and issues of underrepresented populations, including LGBTQIA+ students are often not addressed- leading to feelings of isolation and loss of school connectedness. About 66 percent of LGBTQIA+ students face discrimination from their teachers and peers- leading to poor mental health outcomes such as depression and self-harm, mentioned by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). Further explained by GLSEN, over 85 percent of LGBTQIA+ students reported being verbally harassed based on their sexual/gender orientation. As a result, 32 percent of LGBTQIA+ students report feeling unsafe, uncomfortable, and unmotivated to attend school, which leads to lower academic success (GLSEN, 2016). Positive representations of the LGBTQIA+ community provide a more accepting, safer environment for LGBTQIA+ students (Gowen and Wings-Yanez, 2014). Proper representation of LGBTQIA+ community can increase students' understanding of the risks associated with the LGBTQIA+ community, thus, allowing LGBTQIA+ students to feel more secured and less victimized.

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 1:56:24 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Sarah Michal Hamid

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:28:12 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha HHH Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I urge you to **pass HCR162 without amendments.**

This measure requests that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data, we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

I personally collaborate with many local LGBTQIA+ community members and agencies, who have contributed to the development of this measure in its current form. **Please pass this resolution as it is.**

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HR-138

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:44:17 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Jen Jenkins