



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2021 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads , Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

by

Judge Christine E. Kuriyama

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 821, S.D.1, Relating to Children.

Purpose: Allows a minor who has reached the age of 16 to petition the Family Court for emancipation, and directs the court regarding investigation of the petition, appointment of legal counsel and a guardian ad litem for the petitioner, and the findings necessary to grant the petition. Specifies the rights gained by the minor upon emancipation and authorizes the court to require the minor's parents or legal guardians to pay for any services ordered by the court. (SD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary offers the following comments on this measure and the revisions set forth in SD1:

1. Mandatory appointment of Guardian Ad Litem ("GAL"): In anticipation of appointing a GAL in every emancipation case, the Legislature will need to



Senate Bill No. 821, S.D.1, Relating to Children

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Page 2

appropriate sufficient funding for this expense as the Judiciary's current budget does not include and account for this additional proposed expense.

2. Unfortunately, the Judiciary is unable to predict the additional costs at this time because any additional costs will depend upon the number of cases filed and the amount of work the GAL performs.
3. Further, the Legislature should also consider amending HRS Section 571-87 to include emancipation cases. Court-appointed GALs charge \$60.00/hour for out of court tasks and \$90.00/hour for in-court tasks pursuant to HRS Section 571-87.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

February 20, 2021

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

Testimony in Support of SB 821 SD 1 Relating to Children

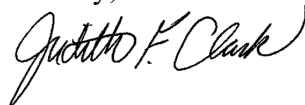
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 821 SD 1 Relating to Children

This bill includes adequate safeguards to ensure that a minor seeking to emancipate:

- Possesses the necessary knowledge and skills to take on adult responsibilities.
- Is able to financially support him or herself.
- Understands and accepts the responsibilities he/she is taking on.
- Is not seeking emancipation due to duress or coercion by a parent or guardian.
- Can continue to receive educational and other services intended for and needed by adolescents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

TESTIMONY

Harm Reduction Hawaii
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB821 to be heard on Thursday, February 25 at 9:30AM by video conference

Support

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary

It is rare to see a good bill discussed relating to teenagers. Many bills this session are aimed to do something to assist minors in the sex trades. This one will actually help. There is a large number of runaways selling sex on our streets. Only a handful have a trafficker in the picture. A New York study done by the people at John Jay indicated only 15%. The rest of them are out there because their status as minors bars them from legal work. Many programs, the foster system etc., may be put forward to help them, but have been rejected by these youths. There is plenty of expertise that could help with that problem. If the legislature is interested in understanding these problems better please let me know.

This bill is at least a start.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan
Executive Director, Harm Reduction Hawaii

SB-821-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:38:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Honda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support