



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature, 2023 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Human Services**  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

by:

Matthew J. Viola  
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge  
Family Court of the First Circuit

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Resolution No. and Title:** House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 / House Resolution No. 73, Urging the Office of Youth Services and District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit to Collaborate in Identifying Processes, Procedures, and Strategies for Partnering with Community Organizations to Maximize Rehabilitation and Minimize Recidivism for Juvenile Offenders.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 and House Resolution No. 73, but we request amendments.

The resolutions' recognition of the over-representation of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander youth in the juvenile justice system is an important one. It has been an enduring problem that the community and the juvenile justice system have not yet been able to address effectively. The resolutions also correctly point to the need for both the community and the juvenile justice system to learn from and collaborate with community organizations and other nations and jurisdictions that have developed or are developing programs based on the wisdom of indigenous peoples, including the Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander cultures.



We also respectfully request the correction of all references to the “District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit.” Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Section 571-3 establishes the family courts as divisions of the circuit courts of the State. The word “district” should be deleted from both resolutions’ titles; page 1, line 28, and page 2, lines 7 and 13 of HCR No. 72; and, page 1, line 27, and page 2, lines 5 and 11 of HR No. 73.

We respectfully suggest the following amended language for the penultimate paragraph on page 2:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Youth Services and [~~District~~] Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit are requested to jointly submit a report of their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and”

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) and the Judiciary have been close collaborators over the years, seeking to implement effective rehabilitation services and programs for our youth. While we have not been successful at “cracking” the problem of over-representation, we have been successful at dramatically decreasing the number of youth committed and detained. We look forward to further collaborating with OYS as requested by these resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this resolution.



# HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Vonnell Ramos, President  
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Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

### Network Membership

*Bay Clinic*  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i*  
*Big Island Substance Abuse*  
*Council*  
*Bobby Benson Center*  
*Child and Family Service*  
*Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i*  
*Collins Consulting, LLC*  
*Domestic Violence Action Center*  
*EPIC `Ohana, Inc.*  
*Family Programs Hawai`i*  
*Family Support Hawai`i*  
*Friends of the Children's Justice*  
*Center of Maui*  
*Get Ready Hawai`i*  
*Hale Kipa, Inc.*  
*Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.*  
*Hawai`i Children's Action*  
*Network*  
*Hawai`i Health & Harm*  
*Reduction Center*  
*Ho`ola Na Pua*  
*Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i*  
*Ka Hale Pomaika`i*  
*Kahi Mohala*  
*Kokua Kalihi Valley*  
*Kaua`i Planning and Action*  
*Alliance*  
*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*  
*PHOCUSED*  
*PFLAG - Kona, Big Island*  
*Planned Parenthood of the*  
*Great Northwest, Hawaii*  
*Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*  
*Residential Youth Services*  
*& Empowerment (RYSE)*  
*Salvation Army Family*  
*Intervention Services*  
*Sex Abuse Treatment Center*  
*Susannah Wesley Community*  
*Center*  
*The Catalyst Group*

March 20, 2023

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 72//HR 73 URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations supports HCR 71/HR 72 Urging the Office of Youth Services and District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit to Collaborate in Identifying Processes, Procedures, and Strategies for Partnering With Community Organizations to Maximize Rehabilitation and Minimize Recidivism for Juvenile Offenders.

It takes a village to raise a child. The only way we can effectively address the issues that lead to disproportionate engagement with the juvenile justice system is to involve stakeholders at all levels within the government, non-profit, faith-based and business sectors and members of the affected communities and populations.

There are multiple existing initiatives that have already reduced the number of incarcerated youth by 82% since 2010. A local multi-agency partnership has recently received a \$10 million dollar Kellogg Foundation grant to continue efforts to create culturally appropriate prevention and early intervention programs. Hawaii Youth Services Network is currently working with Office of Youth Services and multiple organizations statewide on the start-up of the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Project, established by the legislature in 2022.

We hope that the Hawaii Legislature will continue to provide financial and other support for these important and effective efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**HR-73**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:01:00 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/23/2023 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor