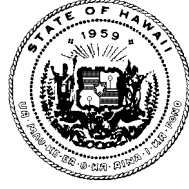


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

February 28, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1128 SD1 – RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES.**

Hearing: March 3, 2021, 9:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference, 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. The Committee on Human Services amended the measure by defecting the effective date and making technical amendments.

**PURPOSE:** 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. Takes effect 5/1/2029. (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. Additionally, the youth and young adults will also become contributors to Hawaii's agricultural workforce needed to maintain local food production.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.



**SB1128 SD1**  
RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Malaki 3, 2021

9:45 a.m.

Lumi 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** SB1128 SD1, which would allow the Office of Youth Services (OYS) 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 and provide participating ‘ōpio a stable income. **The program and revolving fund would further the continued transformation of the Hawai‘i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) into the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (Kawaioloa Center), and would allow OYS to provide and expand rehabilitative job training services to youth and young adults in critical need of support.**

**OHA notes that 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.** In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> In its report, the NHJTF further acknowledged that “an individual’s contact with the criminal justice system, regardless of race, often begins at youth.”<sup>4</sup> 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.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ir_final_web_rev.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 68.

<sup>3</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT (2012), [https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF\\_REPORT\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 21.

<sup>5</sup> 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](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 strongly supports this measure, which would enable the implementation and expansion of programming that can 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 further the ongoing efforts of the Kawaioloa Center, which seek 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 Kawaioloa 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 Kawaioloa Center also supports broader efforts to reach beyond the walls of the HYCF, where it is located. The Kawaioloa 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 Kawaioloa 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 the Kawaioloa Center’s innovative, holistic approaches to addressing the root causes of justice involvement by allowing the commercial enterprise program to support ‘ōpio at the Kawaioloa Center in new and exciting ways. **Allowing the Office of Youth Services to maintain a special fund will ensure that the Kawaioloa Center’s commercial enterprise program can continue to provide values- and strengths-based economic opportunities and job training that is critical to the ongoing rehabilitation and long-term success of its participants.** Additionally, by providing a stable income for ‘ōpio at HYCF, as well as for participating young adults who have “aged out” of child protective services, this measure will help support their independence and stability in this most unprecedented time.

**Notably, by helping to stabilize the circumstances of these young adults and prevent their further involvement in the criminal justice system, the commercial enterprise vocational program 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.

**The commercial enterprise program established in this measure will help to heal our broken youth and promote success among our young adults, in turn resulting 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, the success of the Kawaioloa Center, and its programs, may also serve as a model for greater reform within our criminal justice system.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB1128 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



BRUCE SHIMODA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARK K. PATTERSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

PHONE: (808) 266-9500  
FAX: (808) 266-9506

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
KAWAIILOA YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER  
42-470 KALANIANA'OLE HIGHWAY  
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734

February 28, 2021

TO: Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Mark Patterson, Administrator, Kawaiiloa Youth and Family  
Wellness Center.

SUBJECT: SB1128 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Hearing: March 3, 2021, 9:45 p.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Administrator of the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center supports the intent of this measure.

PURPOSE: Permits individual vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprise, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults only, Establishes the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund.

Over 15,000 young adults ages eighteen through twenty-four in Hawaii are neither employed nor in school, resulting in a life-time state expenditure of \$6.5 billion in lost wages and costs.

This bill will fulfill the OYS requirement under section 352D-4, HRS, to provide vocational training Services for young adults in a self-sustaining fashion. It will allow individual vocational programs under the jurisdiction of OYS to engage in commercial enterprises that are related to their primary educational purpose.

This proposal also supports the Connect 2 Careers partnership, which is formed to build, measure, and scale high-quality work-based learning experiences that align with local, county, and state economic and labor market needs. This measure will enhance the rigor and relevance of work-based learning as young adults engage in comprehensive, real-world, immersive experiences.

The new section to chapter 352D, HRS, will allow OYS to expand and support the career programs by providing that proceeds from the sale of products and services be deposited back into the office of youth services revolving fund. This is a crucial component of being able to sustain, support, and expand the vocational programs that are geared to improving the employment and productive citizenship status of young adults.

The goal is to provide an opportunity for self-sustainability, accountability, and entrepreneurship for our emerging young adults, and not to compete with commercial business at this scale; the vocational enterprise will not be competitive.

Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, consists of a similar law on behalf of the Department of Education that authorizes individual departments, career pathways, or programs to engage in commercial enterprise by the sale of goods and services produced by or for the program to generate funding for the program.

There is a positive impact for the public in that it lessens the funding that will be required for OYS programming, while creating skilled young adults who can enter the workforce and become self-sufficient. The agricultural vocational programs also add to the state's plan to become more self-reliant and provide our citizens with locally produced products.

Mark Patterson, Administrator  
Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center



# HALE KIPA

March 1, 2021

TO: Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Deputy CEO-Hale Kipa

SUBJECT: SB1128 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

## IN SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1128. Hale Kipa is a long-standing agency committed to preparing youth for successful futures and one of the programs that comprise the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) on the grounds of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. Many of the youth we serve need alternative options to fulfill their potential.

The proposed plans to create commercial enterprises coupled with career readiness programming that allows the KYFWC to sell its homegrown beef and produce as well as build a foundation for a program that is based on social entrepreneurship, teaches life skills, vocational training and positive relationships can only be seen as a win-win for the youth and the community. And any proceeds would be returned to the Office of Youth Services to be able to fund more youth-strengthening programming.

This is a progressive and exciting endeavor as it continues to invest in the future of our young people by demonstrating restorative and sustainability practices.

Thank for again for the opportunity to testify in support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, MSW  
Deputy CEO

91-2128 Old Fort Weaver Road • 'Ewa Beach, HI 96706 • T 808.589.1829 • F 808.589.2610 • info@halekipa.org • www.halekipa.org

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Neighbor Island Liaison



# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

9:45 a.m.

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1128 SD1 - YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kaohokalole and Keith-Agaran, 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 more than 4,100 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 1,000 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure that provides vocational programs for young adults to develop the skills needed 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.

What is wonderful about this program is that although it was conceived at the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center, it is for all of our youth across Hawai`i nei.

An issue brief by UNICEF<sup>1</sup> describes youth entrepreneurship:

*Commercial entrepreneurs – those who develop a product, process or service that consumers will pay for. The main objective of commercial entrepreneurship is to generate profits.*

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<sup>1</sup> Youth entrepreneurship: concepts and evidence, Issue brief | Office of Global Insight and Policy, by Andaleeb Alam, February 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/media/72406/file/Youth-entrepreneurship-concepts-and-evidence-issue-brief-2019.pdf>



**Social entrepreneurs** – according to one school of thought, social entrepreneurs use commercial strategies to achieve social goals (e.g., European Commission, OECD, World Bank, ILO, UNCTAD, some governments), and success means creating social and economic value. Another school defines social entrepreneurs as innovators whose innovations catalyze large-scale social change or address social needs, with no explicit mention of economic value creation and earned income strategies (e.g., Ashoka, UNICEF). Social entrepreneurship is a vast field and it is not possible to do justice to this multi-faceted topic here; hence, the scope of the brief is limited to commercial entrepreneurship.

Two statements<sup>2</sup> on youth entrepreneurship highlight the importance of youth creating their own success. This has life-long impacts in how a person interacts with the rest of the world.

*“Any discipline shapes the way we look at the world. A linguist sees a dictionary as the holy grail of knowledge, while an engineer might look at it and see a heavy counterweight. With entrepreneurship comes a prosperous way of thinking—an abundance mindset. The earlier one is exposed to it, the sooner s/he realizes his/her potential as change-makers, the greater impact they can have on society.”*  
(Carlos Granados, Author and Illustrator, Tales of (Ad)Venture)

*“My impression is that the earlier teenagers are able to start thinking and acting like entrepreneurs, the easier it is for them. The further along in our lives we get, the more set in our ways we become; it’s more difficult for us to change. Oftentimes, kids don’t have the fears and worries about trying new things that adults do. By teaching them early, we are able to capitalize on that lack of fear and help them to become more successful.”* (Matt Allen, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, Babson College)

Our youth are our future leaders and we support programs like this to help them reach their fullest potential and to grow into great contributing community contributors!

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our undying support for our youth!

We urge the committee to pass this measure.

*Guard your light and protect it. Move it forward into the world and be fully confident that if we connect light to light to light, and join the lights together of the one billion young people in our world today, we will be enough to set our whole planet aglow.*

Hafsat Abiola

---

<sup>2</sup> Youth Entrepreneurship: A Valuable Life Lesson, By Kait Smith Lanthier March 2, 2017.  
<https://entrepreneurship.babson.edu/youth-entrepreneurship-a-valuable-life-lesson/>

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:58:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elena Farden	Testifying for Kanaeokana	Support	No

Comments:



**March 1, 2021**

**TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network**

**RE: SB1128 SD1: RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**

**Aloha Senators:**

**Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations, is in support of SB1128 SD1 which 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, and establishes the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund.**

**Kanaeokana believes in the power of rehabilitating youth who are incarcerated by using Hawaiian culture based interventions rooted in Aloha 'Äēina. We believe**

**that working on the land heals. The Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center offers innovative programs that serve as Pu'uhonua, safe spaces to rehabilitate and empower young people who have entered the criminal justice system. This program is already fully functional and only requires legislative authorization to sell their products on the open market.**

**Beyond the direct benefit this program has on these youth, SB1128 SD1 aligns with Kanaeokana's goals to support 'Ä• ina industries: small, local farms/growers, and distributors of these products. Creating a diversified, 'Ä• ina-based economy is how we aloha 'Ä• ina and move away from a single economy based on tourism.**

**Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to PASS SB 1128, SD1**

**Me Ka 'Oia'i'o**

**Elena Farden, Co-Chair**

**Mahina Paishon-Duarte, Co-Chair**

**KÄ• mike Advocacy**

**Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network**





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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**SB1128**

RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES.

DATE: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

TIME: 9:45 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1128** to permit individual vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprise, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes.

We support work-based learning to engage young adults in real-world agricultural production so that participants gain an understanding and respect for the work. Vocational programs in the realm of food production will help individual participants, as well as encourage more appreciation for the work that goes into agriculture. Incorporating agriculture and commercial enterprise into young adult rehabilitation is a novel way to contribute to individual growth as well as community improvement.

Nicole Galase  
Managing Director





## Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

March 1, 2020

TO: The Honorable Sn Karl Rhodes, Chair.  
Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Sn Donovan M Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Carla Houser, Executive Director  
Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

SUBJECT: SB1128, SD1

Hearing: Wednesday, March 3, 2021  
Videoconference, Conference Room 211

**POSITION: RYSE supports this measure.**

As a homeless youth service provider, I have growing concerns about the lack of affordable housing and vocational training options offered to Oahu's most vulnerable youth who are aging out of systems and lack family support. Far too many of these young people are falling into homelessness and these numbers will continue to increase as a result of the economic downturn and after the rent moratorium lifts.

This initiative will enable young adults who may lack traditional education, career planning and stable housing supports to successfully transition to out of the vicious cycle of homelessness. This measure supports our efforts to capitalize on the strengths and resilience of our young people.

RYSE is located on the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center in Kailua and we sheltered 125 young people experiencing homelessness in 2020. 81% of those youth were unemployed when they entered our program.

With a commercial enterprise and revolving fund, the Kawaioloa campus could provide realistic job training for youth in a variety of fields: agricultural sciences, integrative business management, marketing and communications, and transportation. This measure would also create pathways living wage jobs to the

young adults who mālama the 'āina, to help them build economic stability and independence, and prepare them for life off the streets and out of our prisons.

Through a collaboration of both state agencies and private organizations this measure will provide career pathways as well as supportive connections to caring adults and services that can guide at risk youth from the streets towards a productive life and brighter future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

*Carla J Houser!*

Carla Houser  
Executive Director, RYSE



March 1, 2021

Aloha Members of the Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees,

Kinai `Eha is a workforce development program that works with Hawai'i's most vulnerable youth. Through our work at Kinai `Eha, my team and I are aware of the importance of providing much needed workforce development training so that our at-promise youth are equipped with employability skills needed to enter the workforce.

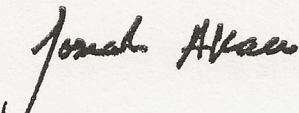
Kinai `Eha supports SB1128 SD1 to permit the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprise, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes for young adults along with the establishment of a revolving fund under OYS. Establishing a commercial enterprise as part of the programmatic work of the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center is critical to providing much needed employment skills for young adults who may lack traditional education and family supports to successfully transition into the mainstream labor market.

It is our responsibility to assure our most vulnerable youth are well equipped with the necessary skills and training to enter the job force so that they may live independent and successful lives as contributing citizens here in Hawai'i.

Furthermore, this bill will help to develop a sorely needed agriculture and cattle ranching workforce. This revolving fund facilitates, directly supports, and aligns with Governor Ige's goal to decrease dependence on food imports and build Hawai'i's agriculture and food system resiliency.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

  
Josiah Akau





COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 9:45 a.m.

**Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**

SB 1128, SD 1- RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES. **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Senators,

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a group of kūpuna Hawaiian homestead farmers committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, **are in strong support of SB 1128, SD 1.**

SB 1128, SD 1 seeks to permit individual vocational programs under the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprises for self-sustainability purposes. This measure will allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility, to engage in economic enterprises where participants will learn valuable real life lessons that can lead to self-sustainability.

SB 1128, SD 1 holds promise for Hawai'i's challenged youth. We appreciate this measure designed to improve the well-being and quality of life for Hawai'i's sons and daughters, helping them become productive citizens leading proud lives as Hawai'i's future.

**We urge these Committees to PASS SB 1128, SD 1.** Mahalo.

*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!*



Papa Ola Lōkahi



Kamehameha Schools®



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HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION · DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS



THE QUEEN'S  
HEALTH SYSTEMS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF HAWAII



KANAEOKANA



BISHOP MUSEUM



NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
EDUCATION COUNCIL

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 9:45 a.m.

Date: March 3, 2021

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**RE: In Support of SB 1128, SD1, Relating to Office of Youth Services**

Aloha mai e ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Dela Cruz, ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Rhoads, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keith-Agaran, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keohokalole, a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike.

The listed organizations write in **SUPPORT** of SB 1128, SD1, which 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, and establishes the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund.

Conceptualized as a pu‘uhonua for at-risk youth, the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center offers innovative programs to rehabilitate and empower young people who have entered the criminal justice system. This includes vocational training in farming and ranching. Unfortunately, the center is not currently permitted to sell their farm-to-table beef and produce. This program is already fully functional and only requires legislative authorization to sell their products on the open market.

Authorizing these activities and establishing a revolving fund will enable Kawaihoa to expand its farming and ranching programs, reinvest its profits, and progress towards becoming entirely self-

sustaining. Kawailoa's farming and ranching programs have the potential to help to break the cycle of incarceration that disproportionately impacts our Native Hawaiian young adults. It will guide them toward learning valuable job skills, earning a living wage, and become financially secure leaders who contribute to their communities.

Accordingly, we ask you to support this bill and urge the Committees to **PASS** SB 1128, SD1.

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:25:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Earl Hishinuma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of SB 1128. We need more opportunities for the positive development of our young adults, as well as innovative, sustainable ways to do so.

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:57:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Umemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am a professor having retired from the University of Hawai'i Department of Urban and Regional Planning and currently teaching in the Urban Planning Program at UCLA and continuing my longstanding work in juvenile justice in Hawai'i. I have served as a researcher and planner for the Office of Youth Services on various projects, including the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) Programmatic Plan. I also specialize in the field of positive youth development and community economic development in discipline of social policy and community planning.

I write to express my strong support for SB1128 SD1 to permit the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprise, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes for young adults along with the establishment of a revolving fund under OYS.

Establishing a commercial enterprise as part of the programmatic work of the KYFWC is critical to filling an important service need for young adults who are transitioning to adulthood. For this population served by OYS, the operation of a commercial enterprise holds one of the greatest promises for youth to prepare themselves to enter the mainstream labor market. As envisioned, the commercial enterprise will teach a wide range of skills -- from communication, accounting and animal husbandry to mechanics, logistics, and maintenance -- along with honing work ethics and behaviors to allow young adults who have faced many past challenges to succeed in the workplace. These activities are also part of a therapeutic programmatic plan supported by other activities at the KYFWC.

The establishment of a revolving fund is an excellent mechanism to raise revenues to support the ongoing operation of the enterprise and related programs that support the youth. Many government institutions have such accounts and there would be none more worthy than an account whose revenue is generated by the labor of youth who would contribute to its sustainability for future program participants. This will have the added impact of giving youth the experience of engaging in work that "pays forward" to next generation cohorts.

There is a sea change taking place with juvenile justice and justice reform more generally gaining national attention. I believe that Hawai'i can be a leading light in the national reform efforts and the establishment of a commercial enterprise will only add to the state's visibility as a leader in this effort.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Umemoto, Ph.D.

Helen and Morgan Chu Chair

Professor of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies



'EkoLu Mea Nui  
PO Box 336  
Kailua, Hi, 96734

February 28, 2021

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
9:35 am

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1128 SD1 Relating to the Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund;  
Commercial Enterprise Vocational Programs**

Aloha Gentlemen,

My name is Dr. Jamee Miller and I am the Co-founder of 'EkoLu Mea Nui, a non-profit organization dedicated to the transformation of Hawai'i's Criminal Justice System to become a pono one that heals and empowers individuals, 'ohana and communities. Our goal is to innovate alternatives to incarceration, restore the human spirit, build resilient 'ohana and change laws and policies that do not support justice reform. I am also a licensed social worker and have worked with Hawai'i's youth and their families my entire career which spans almost 30 years. I have seen firsthand well intentioned programs that are severely underfunded directly affect the healing and well-being of a youth and their ability to rehabilitate. I have seen circumstances where HYCF becomes the gateway into the adult correctional system because of recidivism. Studies show that with the right programs that empower individuals and communities, recidivism decreases.

We are in strong support of SB 1128 SD1 because it provides sustainability and stability of relevant programming that can change the trajectory of youth lives without having to be over dependent on our state's budget. Under the leadership of Mark Patterson, he has provided cost saving measures while expanding services that are community based, best practices and have shown early signs of decreased recidivism. These are the types of solutions our state needs as we pivot away from the pandemic. We urge you to support these ideas and this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Jamee M. Miller, EdD, LSW  
(808)430-3380





**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:55:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

great idea!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:02:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosanna Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:17:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB1128 SD1 that will expand Kawaihoa Center's Current Programs and Services/ Relating to the Office of Youth Services. Currently, through a Kawaihoa initiative, participating youth receive vocational training and professional mentorship to ranch cattle and produce sustainable, ethically-sourced beef to the local market.

Trainees receive a small income along with practical and marketable job skills and business management experience.

Our community needs to allow Kawaihoa to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model.

It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution.

Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch will provide youth with the ability to nourish their community, while they continue to enrich and transform their own lives.

Please SUPPORT SB1128 SD1.

Mahalo!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:22:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
SEAN SPENCER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1334 SD1!! Nuff Said!!**

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:28:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Napua Ahsing	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:54:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric M Kaponu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives.

Much needed innovation. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:38:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Max Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am writing to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:15:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra C. Castell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an OHA beneficiary.

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128

Sandra Castell, 'Ewa Beach



**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 6:09:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward Halealoha Ayau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 7:06:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leni Meleka English	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 7:47:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. This will create a safe space for the youth and a pathway to healing. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 8:45:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ian Custino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

Ian Custino

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 8:46:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon B. Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1128 SD1, for varrious reasons.

**LATE**

**SB-1128-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2021 5:34:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Josh & Kanani DeLary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to support SB1128 SD1, which would allow Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (formerly known as Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility) to engage in economic enterprise, selling its high-quality, locally and sustainably produced beef to the local market and reinvest profits in its business model. This will enable youth to learn business management and gain practical and marketable job skills while receiving professional mentorship, supportive services, and a living wage. It will also provide a way for incarcerated youth to pay off any fines or restitution. Once completely self-sustaining, the ranch can provide youth with the ability to nourish their community while they enrich and transform their own lives. Mahalo and please PASS SB1128 SD1!