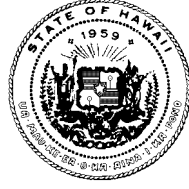


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

March 20, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 23, 2021, 9:00 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 Senate Committee on Human Services amended the measure by defecting the effective date and making technical amendments. The Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means made additional 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. (SD2)

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 Kawaiiloa 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 Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center, and this program will provide skills building, vocational training, and economic programming to prepare young adults for entry into the workforce. Importantly, the youth and young adults will become contributors to Hawaii's agricultural workforce needed to maintain and increase local food production. Lastly, the ability to raise additional revenue to sustain the farming program is especially important at this time of continued general fund shortfalls and additional proposed general fund reductions to youth services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai  
Legislative Testimony

**SB1128 SD2**  
RELATING TO OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
Ke Kōmike Hale o ke Olakino, ka Lawelawe Kānaka, a me ka Pilikia Ho‘okuewa  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Malaki 23, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Lumi 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** SB1128 SD2, 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 Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (Kawaihoa 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 Committee to **PASS** SB1128 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

9:00 a.m.

### **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1128 SD2 BUILDING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi 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 almost 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 1,075 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 helps our youth find direction and purpose in life. This bill is about lifting up and respecting all of Hawai`i’s youth and tapping into that CAN attitude. Over 15,000 young adults ages eighteen through twenty-four in Hawai`i are unemployed and are not in school. This is a clear sign that we need to pay attention. We want our youth to reach their highest and best potential.

SB 1128 SD2 allows the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to maintain a special fund to ensure that the Kawaihoa Center’s commercial enterprise program can continue to provide values- and strengths-based economic opportunities and job training. Helping our youth heal in a supportive environment is crucial. This is for all Hawai`i youth, those who are between 18 and 24 years of age and struggling, justice-involved, and those needing assistance. Helping our youth heal in a supportive environment is crucial to their future because it allows them to dream of the possibilities.

This program 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.

Programs like this open our youth to a world of opportunities that are critical to the long-term success of our next generation of leaders and to all of Hawai`i nei.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports programs that help our youth develop their full potential and we hope that this bill passes with a reasonable effective date allowing the Office of Youth Services to maintain a special fund. This will ensure that the Kawaioloa Center's commercial enterprise program can continue to provide values- and strengths-based economic opportunities and job training to the youth of Hawai`i.

Passing this bill is an example of good, forward-thinking public policy and Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful for the opportunity to support it. We respectfully ask the committee to support it as well!

*That's where the future lies, in the youth of today.*

*Willie Stargell*



RE: Senate Bill 1128 SD 2, Relating to Office of Youth Services Revolving Fund, Commercial Enterprise Vocational Programs

March 22, 2021

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness:

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 Kawaihoa 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josiah Akau". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Josiah Akau



Papa Ola Lōkahi



Kamehameha Schools®



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS



IOLANI PALACE



COUNCIL for  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
ADVANCEMENT



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION



HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS  
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

### House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: March 23, 2021

Place: Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

### RE: In Support of SB 1128, SD2, Relating to Office of Youth Services

Aloha mai e ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Yamane, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Tam, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike.

The listed organizations write in **SUPPORT** of SB 1128, SD2, 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. Kawaihoa’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, SD2.

**SB-1128-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:43:32 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Carolyn Eaton and I strongly support SB 1128. I certainly do hope the date of its having effect be returned to 2021, but it's a very worthwhile, forward-thinking plan to preserve the separate funding, the Youth Services Revolving Fund, for training youth in Hawai'i. This support in our extremely difficult economy going forward will sustain positive thinking and perseverance among members of this generation. Mahalo for your consideration of my views.

**SB-1128-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:49:09 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
donn viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 1128. This bill will provide help for your younger constituents who are at risk, exacerbated by the negative economic, housing, employment and other effects of the pandemic which will continue for some time. The Department of Corrections has a different mission than what this Bill proposes and is not an ideal oversight authority. This Bill provides for a better alternative.

Mahalo, Donn Viviani, Kailua

**SB-1128-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:07:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani and I have been a resident of Oahu for 30 years. I support SB1128 for these reasons:

- I support programs that help our youth develop their full potential
- 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
- Allowing the OYS to maintain a special fund will ensure that the Kawaiiloa Center's commercial enterprise program can continue to provide values- and strengths-based economic opportunities and job training is good, forward-thinking public policy
- Helping our youth heal in a supportive environment is crucial
- This program 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
- Programs like this open our youth to opportunities and are critical to the long-term success of our next generation of leaders and to all of Hawai'i nei
- 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB1128.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

**SB-1128-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:24:16 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support

**SB-1128-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 9:30:41 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT