

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

March 22, 2022

S.B. No. 2481, SD2, HD1: RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender supports the intent of S.B. 2481, SD2, HD1.

This measure would create a Youth Crisis Center Branch with the Office of Youth Services. Youth at risk and youth in need of services require safe and supportive emergency housing and shelters. These services are desperately needed to help quell the growing needs of our youth who are living in poverty, who are houseless (some who may have become houseless together with their parents and to no fault of their own), and who are in need of mental health services and treatment. Youth at risk and youth in need of services are also at risk of being victims of crime (i.e. property crimes, assaults, sexual assaults, and/or human trafficking). These youth are often preyed upon and become involved in criminal activity.

The creation of a Youth Crisis Center Branch with the Office of Youth Services will help prevent at risk youth from becoming involved in criminal activity and can help the youth in need obtain access to vital services like mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment and access to safe and supportive housing and educational services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

March 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB 2481 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure, offers comments, and requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget if this measure proceeds.

The Coordinator defers to the Office of Youth Services (OYS) regarding the positions and funds needed to implement youth crisis centers and expand services for youth statewide.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the Youth Crisis Center Branch of the Office of Youth Services and the position of Administrator of the Youth Crisis Branch of the Office of Youth Services. The bill also makes an appropriation.

The Coordinator agrees with both OYS and the Department of Human Services (DHS) that adding new sections in chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, may not be needed because OYS is already authorized to perform the proposed services. Notably, OYS and HYCF currently administer numerous programs to support youth in crisis throughout the state. For example, the HYCF campus in Kawaihoa currently supports youth-focused programs administered by a number of different providers, including RYSE, Hale Kipa, and Kinai Eha. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully suggests amendments to broaden OYS capacity and reach by providing additional funding and positions.

OYS provides its services in a collaborative manner, which includes close partnership with the Coordinator, DHS, and youth service providers. For example, the Coordinator, OYS, DHS and youth homeless providers worked together to support [Act 23, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021](#), which expanded conditions under which unaccompanied minors may consent to no cost emergency shelter. Additionally, during the pandemic, the Coordinator collaborated with OYS, Department of Health (DOH), and the City and County of Honolulu to launch a small emergency quarantine and isolation site for minors exposed to or experiencing COVID-19.

Finally, as Chair of the HICH, the Coordinator recognizes that strengthening services for youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability is just one piece of a more comprehensive approach that is necessary to address homelessness statewide. Other priorities adopted by the HICH for 2022 include providing shallow rental subsidies and reducing upfront barriers to rental housing by adopting ‘source of income’ discrimination policies and providing landlord incentives. For more information about the 2022 HICH policy priorities, please visit <http://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GCH-Legislative-Priorities-2022-Overview.pdf>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2481, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

March 22, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2481, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, amends Chapter 352D, HRS, to:

1) establish the Youth Crisis Center Branch (YCCB) within the Office of Youth Services (OYS); 2) set the objectives of YCCB; 3) provide authority to YCCB to establish regional youth crisis centers and to provide services and programs to youth at risk; 4) authorize the Governor to appoint the YCCB administrator without regard to Chapter 76, HRS; 5) set annual reporting requirements for the administrator; 6) authorize the administrator to appoint staff without regard to Chapter 76, HRS; and 7) add new definitions for "administrator" and "branch." The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to OYS to establish YCCB and authorizes 3.00 full-time equivalents to establish the administrator position and two program specialist positions.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds

and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

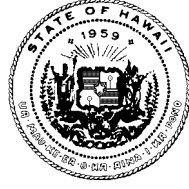
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: SB 2481 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS.

HEARING: March 22, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure, offers comments, and defers to the Office of Youth Services (OYS) and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF).

The Department agrees with OYS that the proposed statutory amendments to create a new organization within OYS are not required as OYS is already authorized to perform the proposed services. In addition, creating a new organization within OYS will require a reorganization that will take time and additional operational expenses to support a new program. Instead, additional general funds and positions will be used more efficiently if applied to the current organizational and statutory framework, and more resources will be available for services in a shorter timeframe.

DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget. The Department also requests that if this measure passes, the Legislature includes new positions at OYS and position funding to implement this measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish Establishes the youth crisis center branch within the office of youth services and the position of administrator of the youth crisis

center branch to head the youth crisis center branch. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060.
(HD1)

The SD1 made technical amendments, and the SD2 defected the effective date. The HD1 further defected the effective date and made additional technical amendments.

DHS agrees that more human resources and funds be directed to OYS to restore funds for community-based services to address the growing needs of Hawaii's youth. The pandemic has significantly impacted youth during vital stages of their development into adulthood. Several studies discuss how "youth disconnection rates" have increased since the pandemic. "Youth disconnection" refers to youth who are neither in school nor participating in work. Additionally, Hawaii families continue to struggle with the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 and are experiencing higher housing and job instability that limit available resources and increase familial stress.

The Department agrees with OYS that the proposed statutory amendments to create a new organization within OYS are not required as OYS is already authorized to perform the proposed services. In addition, creating a new organization within OYS will require a reorganization that will take time and additional operational expenses to support a new program. Instead, additional general funds and positions will be used more efficiently if applied to the current organizational and statutory framework, and more resources will be available for services.

OYS and HYCF have existing services that need additional resources to increase capacity. In addition, OYS and HYCF need additional personnel to provide oversight and facilitate communication between family members and community providers.

Additionally, per Act 23, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) is drafting new administrative rules to clarify how shelter providers can provide no-cost shelter for unaccompanied youth. With clarification and potentially more funds, shelter providers will be better able to provide no-cost shelter services to unaccompanied youth and their families.

During the pandemic, DHS, OYS, HYCF, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, and the Departments of Education and Health have been working collaboratively to address the

needs of youth and their families. For example, DOH, HYCF, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, and DHS worked together to open a small quarantine program at HYCF to support youth who needed quarantine.

In addition, on a case-by-case basis, multi-agency staff has discussed available resources and ways to maximize existing services and resources for youth in crisis. In one particular case, community members provided the needed support to a youth and his family when no government shelter resources were available, underscoring that more shelter and housing options for youth and families are needed.

Also, in partnership with DOE, DOH, OYS, HYCF, and community providers, DHS proposed administration measures SB3111 Relating to Family Resources Centers to enhance and develop a network of school-based and community-based family resources centers. Family resource centers aim to assist families in finding resources and services to support children's ability to continue in school and prevent involvement with child welfare services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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 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's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

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 18, 2022

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2481, SD 2 HD 1 RELATED TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2481 SD HD 1 Related to Youth Crisis Centers..

Youth are the most vulnerable and often overlooked segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not yet completed their education, lack employment experience and skills, and need to learn the skills for adult living.

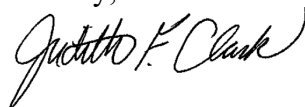
Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide partnership to address youth homelessness. Here are some of the facts about Hawaii's homeless youth.

- The average age when youth first become homeless is 14.
- More than 3/4 have been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused.
- 41% were forced to leave home by their families.
- Nine out of ten (90%) have slept outdoors in a park, beach, sidewalk or car.
- Two-fifths have been beaten or assaulted while on the streets.

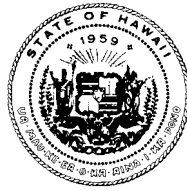
Additional resources for shelter for the homeless and services for at-risk youth are much needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2481 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Room 325, Via Videoconference

OFFICE'S POSITION: Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent this measure and respectfully makes recommendations. OYS recommends that the proposed language be integrated within Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) Section §352D-7, Youth service and crisis centers and that the three positions proposed be newly established and funded as regular civil service positions. The OYS respectfully request that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish a youth crisis center branch within OYS and proposes three full-time positions exempt from Chapter 76.

Youth homelessness is a significant problem that exposes youth to additional trauma and life challenges. In 2018-2019, U.S. Department of Education data shows that 3,604 homeless students experiencing homelessness in Hawaii on any given day, including 30 unaccompanied homeless students and 299 unaccompanied homeless youth adults (aged 18-24). Of these homeless students, 297 were unsheltered. Youth experiencing homelessness often face significant challenges, including trauma and violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, drug abuse, mental health issues, and poor school attendance. The pandemic has further worsened the issues facing youth and families across the state. Providing early intervention

services can have significant positive effect on future outcomes for youth and community resources.

The Office of Youth Services currently has the statutory responsibility to establish youth service centers under Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) Section §352D-7, Youth service centers; to include one or more in each county. As such, the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) was established as the central youth service center in Honolulu County, that provides the services proposed here. Due to limited staffing and funding, OYS did not establish similar youth service centers in other counties.

The Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) managed by the Hawaii Youth Correctional Center (HYCF) Administrator is a central youth service center for Oahu, servicing youth at-risk and/or in crisis, and continues to successfully deliver a variety of services to youth within a public-private partnership framework. Over the past several years, KYFWC has developed a campus with the following operating programs:

KAWAIILOA YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER PROGRAMS	
Hale Lanipolua (Hale Kipa)	Commercial Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Residential Assessment Center
Hale Olomana (DOE)	Education for At-Risk Youth
Hale Mololani (Kinai Eha)	Vocational Program
Hale Apuakea (RYSE)	Homeless Shelter

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE), on the Kawaihoa campus, is one program having a significant impact on the lives of homeless youth. Sheltering approximately 145 youth in 2021, RYSE has provided 7,454 nights of safe sleep, 254 medical clinic visits, 838 behavioral health visits, and 1300 community outreach contacts. In addition, RYSE has assisted 59 youth in finding paid internships, 7 youth enroll in GED classes, 21 youth receiving financial literacy certificates, and 65% of the youth they serviced have transitioned out of unsheltered homelessness into stable housing. Hale Lanipolua (Hale Kipa) has served approximately 57 youth since opening, providing much needed counseling and support services. Kinai Eha has provided 20 youth with vocational training and livable wage opportunities.

OYS acknowledges the need for additional similar youth centers across the state, however establishing crisis centers in addition to service centers would create unnecessary duplication of services. In addition, adding a branch to OYS is not necessary, and will duplicate the current operations and initiate a lengthy and time consuming reorganization. As such, it is recommended that the proposed language be integrated within Section §352D-7, Youth service and crisis centers. If the language is not to be integrated here, the OYS requests clarification as to if it is the intent for OYS to establish both youth service centers and youth crisis centers across the State. OYS also requests that the three positions be established as regular civil services positions within OYS, in order to facilitate a coordinated systems approach and long-term stability within our statewide continuum of care.

Over the years, the Office of Youth Services (HMS 501) has experienced a reduction in funding and positions. Funding has also decreased from \$6.6 million in FY17 to \$5.8 million in FY21 to an estimated \$5.7 million for FY22. In FY08-09, OYS had 24 permanent and 3 temporary positions, which was cut to 12 permanent positions by FY12. Currently, OYS has 15 permanent and 0.5 temporary positions, of which 3 permanent and the 0.5 temporary positions are dedicated to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention federal grant program and one permanent position coordinating the Hawaii State Youth Commission. This results in only four permanent Program Specialists currently procuring and managing approximately 80 program service contracts. OYS will need newly established positions and future general fund appropriations to establish the proposed youth service and crisis centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

22 March 2022

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 2481, SD2 HD1, Relating to Youth Crisis Centers

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee,

We are writing in strong support of SB 2481, SD2, relating to youth crisis centers. This measure would establish the Youth Crisis Center Branch of the Office of Youth Services and the position of Administrator of the Youth Crisis Branch of the Office of Youth Services.

This bill would address and offer aid to the youth of Hawai'i who struggle with mental health and abuse. Research shows that Native Hawaiians suffer from alarming rates of negative mental health associated risk factors. Youth suicide ideation, attempt and death rates are highest among Native Hawaiians. Furthermore, Native Hawaiian keiki are overrepresented as victims of abuse and neglect, according to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. We believe this measure is a pivotal step in the effort to advance mental health and abuse victim support for Native Hawaiian youth. We applaud the legislature for recognizing that instances of crisis occurring amongst the State's most vulnerable youth are increasing, especially in communities having a high incidence of poverty; homelessness; crime; school truancy; school suspensions; runaways; physical and mental abuse; illegal drug use; juvenile crime; and crimes against youth, including sex trafficking. We agree that these communities lack sufficient resources and services to respond to the immediate needs of the youth at risk.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB 2481, SD2.

A COLLABORATION OF THE HAWAI'I YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, OLOMANA SCHOOL,
KINA 'EHA, HALE KIPA, RYSE, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, 1099 ALAKEA ST., STE. 2530, HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
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