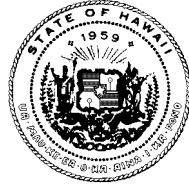


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 16, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2481 SD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS.**

HEARING: February 18, 2022, 10:10 a.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). 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 allocates new positions at OYS and position funding to implement this measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish the Youth Crisis Center Branch within the Office of Youth Services and the position of Administrator of the Youth Crisis Branch to head the Office of Youth Services. Appropriates funds. (SD1) The SD1 made 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 across the country 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.

OYS and HYCF have an array of 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.

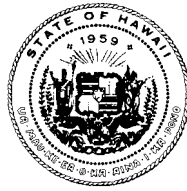
Additionally, per Act 23, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) Branch is drafting new administrative rules to clarify how shelter providers can provide no-cost shelter for unaccompanied youth. With clarification and potentially more funds, shelter providers will be better able 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 HB2143 and 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.



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

February 17, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2481 SD1, RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS

Hearing: Friday, February 18, 2022 at 10:10 a.m.
State Capitol Room 225 & Videoconference

OFFICE'S POSITION: Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this measure and respectfully makes recommendations, including the establishment of three new regular civil service positions.

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

Effective July 1, 1991, under Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) Section §352D-7, Youth service centers; creation, the OYS is charged with establishing youth service centers, including one or more in each county and including the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) as the central youth service center in Honolulu County. 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), established by Act 208 in 2018, an OYS/HYCF managed central youth service center for Oahu, 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)	CSEC Residential Assessment Center
Hale Olomana (DOE)	Education for At-Risk Youth
Hale Mololani (Kinai Eha)	Vocational Program 15-25 year olds
Hale Apuakea (RYSE)	Homeless Shelter 13-24 year olds

OYS acknowledges the need for additional similar youth centers across the state. However, adding a branch to OYS is not necessary and will duplicate the current operations. As such, it is recommended that the proposed language be integrated within Section §352D-7, Youth service and crisis centers. 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 to these joint youth service and crisis centers 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 four permanent Program Specialists currently procuring and managing approximately 80 program service contracts. Below are positions abolished since FY2008.

Position Title	Salary
Accountant IV	SR22
Clerical Supervisor II	SR11
Administrative Tech Svcs Ofcr	SRNA
Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt IV	SR22
Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt IV	SR22
Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt IV	SR22
Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt IV	SR22
Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt V	SR24

Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt V	SR24
Children & Yuth Prgm Spclt V	SR24
Office Assistant III	SR08
Account clerk III	SR11

OYS will need the three positions proposed in addition to future general fund appropriations to establish the proposed youth service and crisis centers.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2481, S.D. 1

February 18, 2022
10:10 a.m.
Room 211 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. 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.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

February 18, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2481 SD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS.**

Hearing: Friday, February 18, 2022, 10:10 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure, respectfully 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.

In December 2021, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) adopted policy priorities for the 2022 legislative session, including a specific focus on supporting programs that assist key homeless sub-populations (e.g., transition-age youth) with transitioning to stable, long-term settings. The purpose of this bill aligns with the 2022 priorities adopted by the HICH.

There are a limited number of emergency shelter beds specifically for youth and young adults not actively engaged with the child welfare or criminal justice systems. In 2021, the Coordinator worked with DHS and youth homeless providers to support passage of [Act 23](#) that

expanded the conditions under which unaccompanied minors may consent to no cost emergency shelter. SB 2481 would further expand access to shelter for youth by enabling the Office of Youth Services to establish crisis centers that provide temporary shelter. However, as currently drafted, the “provision of temporary shelter shall not exceed thirty days per person.”

If this bill moves forward, the Coordinator recommends providing more flexibility regarding the length of stay in the youth crisis centers. If providers enforce the 30-day time limit for shelter due to a lack of available shelter or housing inventory, there may be the unintended consequence of providers discharging youth to homelessness.

To avoid time limits that result in a return to homelessness, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Homeless Programs Office (HPO) includes performance targets in its emergency shelter contracts that track the percentage of individuals who exit in less than 90-days. Notably, the contracts do not establish a maximum time limit for shelter stay. The youth crisis centers could implement a similar model that targets the percentage of youth exiting within 30-days instead of a 30-day maximum. Flexibility on the stay in the shelter would provide the crisis centers more time to locate a suitable placement for these youth.

The Coordinator notes that the HICH prioritized low-income housing development for individuals transitioning from homelessness, including homeless youth. HB 2140 and SB 3108 are administrative bills that facilitate the development of low-income housing options by expanding the Ohana Zones pilot program. The Corporation for Supportive Housing estimates Hawaii needs 42,944 supportive housing units for transition-age youth - including 28,698 for unaccompanied youth ages 18-24; 5,133 for youth exiting the child welfare system; and 9,113 for justice-involved youth.¹

To comprehensively address housing needs 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>.

¹ Retrieved from the Corporation Supportive Housing: <https://www.csh.org/supportive-housing-101/data/>

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters 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

February 16, 2022

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, support SB 2481 SD 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.

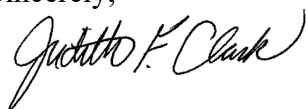
Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide partnership to address youth homelessness. Here are some of the facts about Hawaii's homeless youth.

- 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

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

18 February 2022

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Time: 10:10 am

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 2481, SD1, Relating to Youth Crisis Centers

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 2481, SD1, 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. Appropriates moneys.

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 and outcomes. Youth suicide ideation, attempt and death rates are highest among Native Hawaiians. Furthermore, Native Hawaiian keiki are overrepresented as victims of abuse and neglect (OHA). We believe this measure is a pivotal step in the effort to advance mental health and abuse victim support for Native Hawaiian youth. In addition, the latest committee report regarding the bill identifies a "lack of sufficient resources and services" in communities with high incidences of poverty, crime, physical and mental abuse, school suspensions, and more. It is also found, through this committee report, that there are a limited number of emergency shelter beds dedicated for youth who are not actively engaged with child welfare or criminal justice systems. These dedicated beds would be included for youths experiencing forms of abuse at home or elsewhere, who are seeking a place away from traumatic environments.

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 houselessness 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, SD1.

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
(808) 447-1840 WWW.OYAHPOLICY.COM/

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2481, SD 1

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 18, 2022 (10:10 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2481, SD 1, which would establish the Youth Crisis Center Branch within the Office of Youth Services and the position of Administrator of the Youth Crisis Branch to head the Office of Youth Services.

HHRC provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore. This includes our "Guide on the Side" program that is designed to reach trans and LGBTQ+ unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. Queer youth are at heightened risk for housing instability, withdrawal from educational opportunities and co-curricular activities, being a victim of abuse, and experiencing a range of behavioral health issues.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2481-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 12:27:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members,

Our youth are at risk for a myriad of ills that are a direct result of the apparent fracturing of the world order. While adults are experiencing every type of human trauma in this current climate, young people are more vulnerable and therefor even more at risk.

Funding this program is a must do initiative if we are to have a future, carried into being by mentally and physically healthy youth,

Please pass this bill,

Mahalo nui loa,

Ann S. Freed

Mililani

LATE

SB-2481-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 9:16:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Simona Richard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am Simona Richard, a student of Kalaheo High School. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB2481.

It is a fact Hawaii has the second-highest per capita rate of homelessness and some of these people are children who have gone through some sort of crisis. This bill could provide immediate shelter to those youth at risk during the time of those crises. This would also lower the child rate in homelessness and homelessness itself. 24.7% of sex trafficking in Hawai'i is due to a need for a place to stay and 23% of those people were sex trafficked before the age of 18. If those children were able to get in contact with a youth crisis center for help then this could have been avoided, to begin with. These youth crisis centers will be able to provide shelter, educational services, and individual and family counseling services that will help those youth in crisis. The U.S. has the world's highest child incarceration rate and Hawai'i contributes to this number as well. About 21.1% of youth in Hawai'i are also involved in drugs, these youth crisis programs can help by providing substance abuse treatment centers and will help disrupt the school to prison pipeline, which will help decrease those rates. Thank you for your time and consideration, I hope that you will support S.B 2481 and support this request for a hearing.

Sincerely,

Simona Richard