

DAVID Y. IGE  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

March 13, 2022

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

**FROM:** Cathy Betts, Director

**SUBJECT: SB 2481 SD2 – 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).

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 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2) The SD1 made technical amendments, and the SD2 defected the effective date.

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.

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 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 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.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

March 15, 2022

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

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE  
Conference Room 329, 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.

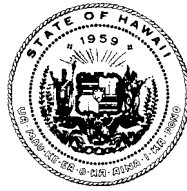
The Coordinator has worked together with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Social Services Division and OYS to address access to shelter for youth and young adults. In 2021, the Coordinator worked with DHS and youth homeless providers to support passage of

[Act 23](#) that expanded the conditions under which unaccompanied minors may consent to no cost emergency shelter. Additionally, during the pandemic, the Coordinator worked together with DHS, DOH, and the City and County of Honolulu to launch a small emergency quarantine and isolation site for minors experiencing homelessness on the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) campus.

Notably, OYS and HYCF currently administer a number of programs that provide a continuum of services to support youth in crisis throughout the state. For example, the HYCF campus in Kailua currently supports youth-focused programs administered by a number of different providers, including RYSE, Hale Kipa, and Kinai Eha. If this measure proceeds, the Legislature may consider strengthening the existing capacity of OYS by providing additional funding and positions to scale services statewide.

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.



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

March 14, 2022

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

The Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Acting Executive Director

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

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol Room 329 & 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.

The Office of Youth Services already 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. 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)	CSEC Residential Assessment Center
Hale Olomana (DOE)	Education for At-Risk Youth
Hale Mololani (Kinai Eha)	Vocational Program
Hale Apuakea (RYSE)	Homeless Shelter

OYS acknowledges the need for additional similar youth centers across the state. However, adding an additional 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.

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
March 14, 2022  
Page **3** of **3**

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.



# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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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 12, 2022

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Health

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

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

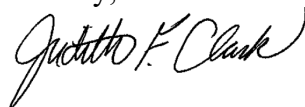
Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide partnership to address youth homelessness. Here are some of the facts about Hawaii's homeless youth.

- 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**

15 March 2022

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Virtual  
Re: SB 2481, SD2, Relating to Youth Crisis Centers

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, 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  
(808) 447-1840 [WWW.OYAHPOLICY.COM/](http://WWW.OYAHPOLICY.COM/)

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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 HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &  
HOMELESSNESS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2481, S.D. 2

**March 15, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Room 329 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, 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.