

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

April 5, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3235 SD1 – RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM.**

Hearing: April 6, 2022, 2:45 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the measure's intent and provides comments. The Department respectfully requests that one-time funding be available to add capacity to existing services and that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure establishes the safe spaces for youth pilot program within the Department of Human Services. Requires the program to collaborate with all state and county departments that offer services to ensure the well-being of youth in Hawaii to coordinate the identification of youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these youth at a shelter for homeless youth. Requires the Department of Human Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth. Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature before the regular session of 2025. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2025. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1) The SD1 defected the effective date and made technical amendments. The HD1 further defected the effective date and made technical amendments.

The safety of Hawaii's minors is a priority. DHS will continue to work with the Legislature, stakeholders, and community to develop appropriate shelter, housing programs,

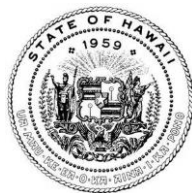
and related services for unaccompanied youth under 18 who are experiencing homelessness. Currently, there are limited emergency shelters specifically to serve minors under 18 or independent living programs for minors not involved with Child Welfare Services (CWS). As a result, some minors seek shelter with older adults and become vulnerable to victimization.

With improved homeless data and limited shelter services available at Kawaiiloa Health & Wellness Center available to young adults, 18-24, we recognize the need to develop additional youth outreach, drop-in, and shelter services across the State for unaccompanied minors, including pregnant or parenting minors, whether they are involved with CWS or not. Many unaccompanied minors encountered are not involved with CWS.

As defined in this bill, youth focuses on age, not circumstances. The definition of homeless youth and runaway youth can vary; see the federal definition; <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/runaway-and-homeless-youth/federal-definitions>. A safe space for youth may result in unintended consequences of increased runaways.

Concerning family-based strategies, CWS has difficulty recruiting and retaining resource homes for older youth, especially those who have been trafficked. Additional resources are needed to coordinate behavioral health training and strategies so that youth will meet knowledgeable peers or staff during their first encounters. Developing peer-based outreach programs and additional transitional independent living programs will help stabilize more youth and reconnect them with school, their families, pro-social friends, job training, and employment. These efforts will give youth the opportunities to gain the skills and resources to become successful adults. As the measure advances, we will update the Legislature with resource needs.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

April 6, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: **SB 3235 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 2:45 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure and respectfully offers comments. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Office of Youth Services regarding the continuum of current programs to serve homeless youth and young adults.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests that its passage not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the Safe Spaces for Youth pilot program within DHS. The bill requires the program to collaborate with all State departments that offer services to ensure the well-being of youth in Hawaii to coordinate the identification of youth experiencing homelessness and placement of homeless youth with a shelter for homeless youth. In addition, the bill allows DHS to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide a shelter for homeless youth, appropriates funds, and requires DHS to report to the Legislature.

As an alternative to establishing a new program, the Legislature may consider enhancing support for the existing programs within the Office of Youth Services (OYS). Notably, OYS and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) currently administer numerous programs to support youth in crisis throughout the state. For example, the HYCF campus in Kawailoa 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 and defers to OYS regarding the specific additional capacity that may be required.

The Coordinator acknowledges the need to increase services for youth experiencing homelessness. DHS and OYS are working proactively to increase access and improve utilization of existing programs. In 2021, the Coordinator worked with DHS and youth homeless providers to support the passage of Act 23 that expanded the conditions under which unaccompanied minors may consent to a no-cost emergency shelter. As a result of this advocacy, RYSE was able to set aside a small number of shelter beds for unaccompanied minors.

Additionally, the Oahu Continuum of Care (CoC), also known as Partners in Care, recently implemented a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), which offers a wide range of federally-funded services for youth experiencing homelessness. Partners in Care was recently awarded over \$1.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for YHDP in the upcoming federal fiscal year. An online dashboard for the YHDP is available at: <https://partnersincareoahu.org/yhdp-dashboard>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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
P.O. BOX 150
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 FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3235, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

April 6, 2022
2:45 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM

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

Senate Bill No. 3235, S.D. 1, H.D. 1: 1) establishes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program (SSYPP) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a period of three years; 2) requires SSYPP to coordinate with State and county agencies to identify youth experiencing homelessness in each county; 3) requires DHS to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelter for homeless youth; 4) authorizes the shelters to provide services to admitted youth for up to 90 days without a parent's or guardian's consent; 5) sets reporting requirements for DHS; 6) provides definitions for clarity; and 7) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS in FY 23 to fund SSYPP.

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.

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

April 4, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3235 SD 1 HD 1 RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, support SB 3235 SD 1 HD 1 Relating to Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the youth who attended the Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol several years ago. It was voted the top priority for legislative action for 3 years in a row indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Nearly half of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for status offenses such as running away from home or being truant from school. They run away or skip school because they have untreated mental health and substance abuse needs; experience abuse, violence or bullying; or other issues that are not best resolved by a law enforcement approach. Our youth want and need safe places in the community where youth can seek help before they get in trouble with the law.

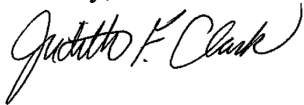
It takes a community to raise a child. The Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program will facilitate coordination and collaboration by government, non-profit, and faith-based organizations and caring community members to increase the safety and well-being of our children and youth. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address such issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble and avoid unnecessary arrests for status offenses.

Emergency shelter is a key component providing safe, appropriate living conditions for youth who cannot safely return home. The 24-hour crisis response system will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency.

While much of the network resources are already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability and an adequate supply of emergency shelter beds; conduct outreach so that youth, families, and service providers are aware of the program and know how to use it; provide training of youth workers; and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-3235-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 3:38:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 definitely supports SB3235. Please pass. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

SB-3235-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 10:32:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 3235 SD 1 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

SB-3235-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 11:42:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Baker	Hawaii Chapter American College Emergency Physicians	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The legislative committee of the Hawaii Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians is troubled by the increasing prevalence of homelessness in our youth. Drug use is a complicating factor. We are now seeing a multigenerational impact to the population by homelessness and illicit drug use. We believe this bill will help mitigate the impact of homelessness to our youth and future generations.

Mark Baker, MD, FACEP, FAMIA

Past President HI ACEP

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

06 April 2022

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Time: 02:45 PM

Location: Videoconference

Re: SB 3235, SD1 HD1, Relating to Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 3235, SD1 HD1, relating to the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program. This bill would establish the safe spaces for youth pilot program within the department of human services. It would require the program to collaborate with all state and county departments that offer services to ensure the well-being of youth in Hawai'i to coordinate the identification of youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these youth at a shelter for homeless youth. It would also require the department of human services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth. Lastly, it would require the department of human services to submit a report to the legislature before the regular session of 2025. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2025. Effective 7/1/2060.

This measure would contribute to the efforts of reducing the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians, especially youth, in disadvantageous and dangerous situations, such as homelessness. According to the Partners in Care 2020 O'ahu Point In Time Count (PIT), about **16%** of Hawai'i's homeless population were children. Furthermore, **51%** of the overall PIT Count identified Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander as either their only race or part of their multiracial background. We believe this bill is a pivotal step in providing critical and necessary resources to the Native Hawaiian community, as well as helping youth that are in stressful home or social situations by providing a place to feel safe, away from sources of trauma.

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 3235, SD1 HD1.



Young Democrats of Hawai'i

Executive Board:

Trish La Chica
President

Danicole Ramos
Vice-President

Keoni Williams
Secretary

Perry Arrasmith
Treasurer

Jacob Aki
**State Central Committee
Male Representative**

Aria Juliet Castillo
**State Central Committee
Female Representative**

Cameron Deptula
**Young Democrats of
America National
Committeeman**

Radiant Cordero
**Young Democrats of
America National
Committeewoman**

Jared Sam Agtunong
**Membership and Chapter
Building Director**

Kathryn Kelly
**Communications and
Digital Director**

Kaleo Chang
**Policy and Research
Director**

Cross Crabbe
**Chair, O'ahu Young
Democrats**

April 5, 2022

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Young Democrats of Hawai'i (YDHI) **supports SB3235 SD1 HD1**. Youth homelessness is a serious issue coupled with alarming statistics demonstrating the vulnerability and fragility of adolescents and young adults if and when they are not properly cared for within our community.

YDHI is a caucus under the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Our mission is to increase the political strength of our members by providing opportunities for civic engagement, political advocacy, and participation in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

SB3235 SD1 HD1 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish an inter-agency youth pilot program for safe spaces, specifically for those youth experiencing houselessness. This program would help to protect and empower youth to improve their circumstances by offering services and opportunities including, but not limited to, housing accommodations, healthcare accessibility, and education and work opportunities. With various conditions around youth houselessness, it is incredibly important they are provided with every tool available for success. With the viability of living in Hawai'i becoming increasingly harder, especially for young people, these social networks provide reassurance for all residents that services and assistance are available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, and we urge you to **pass SB3235 SD1 HD1** to continue providing and caring for Hawai'i's youth.

Sincerely,
The Young Democrats of Hawai'i

SB-3235-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 2:18:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This does not Work!!

April 4, 2022

**Testimony in support of SB 3235 SD 1:
RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM**

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shantel Pascual, and I am a medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). I am writing to express my support for SB 3235, which is a bill that supports the creation of Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program. This is a program that will provide services to youth that are in need of safe emergency housing and resources such as mental health treatment.

I am currently involved in a community health group at JABSOM called Homeless Youth Program for Excellence (HYPE). Our group works closely with houseless youth on the island and provides them with opportunities for mentorship with our medical students. Our program focuses on fostering meaningful relationships with these houseless youth and providing them with guidance so that they may complete their studies and pursue purposeful careers. During my time in HYPE, I learned about the many challenges that houseless youth face on a daily basis. Due to the instability of their housing situation, it is not surprising that they are more susceptible to mental health illnesses and substance abuse and also have an increased risk of being victims of crime including assaults and theft.

If this bill is passed, the creation of a Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program will be able to provide vital resources to houseless youth on the island. Rather than having to blindly navigate the challenges of being houseless alone, the accessibility of a safe and supportive program like this can help alleviate and even prevent houseless youth from being involved in criminal activity and substance use.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express my support on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SPascual', written in a cursive style.

Shantel Pascual

SB-3235-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 2:23:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian gay man born and raised in Hawaii. I am 70 years of age.

When I was in middle school, I tried so hard to hide my sexuality. It bothered me and affected my school work and grades. I learned to adapt to my closet. A safe space for me to be able to be honest about who I was would have made an incredible difference to my peace of mind. I know that there are still a lot of closeted gay people (youth) in Hawaii's community. Especially I'm the more conservative areas and ethnic groups. A safe space would help them.

SB-3235-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 9:05:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB3235 by Senator San Buenaventura which creates a safe spaces for youth pilot program within the department of human services. We need to do everything possible to protect young people who are homeless, especially LGBTQ kids who are particularly vulnerable.

Thank you for your vote for compassion and true aloha.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749