

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 Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: SCR 222 / SR 215, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND HOW TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT FUNDING MECHANISM TO ALLOW THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES TO GENERATE INCOME TO SUPPORT ITS VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 3:25 p.m.
State Capitol Room 225 & Videoconference

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of this measure to work with the Department of Public Safety and Department of Budget and Finance. The Office of Youth Services is always willing to work with its partner agencies to improve services to our youth and communities.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to convene a task force of the Department of Public Safety, Department of Budget and Finance and the Office of Youth Services in order to determine an effective mechanism for the Office of Youth Services to generate income to support its vocational programs for youth.

Cooperatively with this bill is Senate Bill 1128, authorizing the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprise. The OYS respectfully requests that SB1128 be scheduled for a hearing, so that the OYS has the authority to proceed pending the outcome of this task force establishing a mechanism to engage in such activities.

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

March 21, 2022

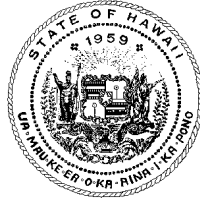
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The mission of the Office of Youth Services (OYS) is to prevent delinquency, reduce recidivism and for youth to thrive within their communities. The Office of Youth Services' Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) and Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) serves our community's most vulnerable youth - providing correctional rehabilitation, emergency shelter, counseling, education, and vocational programming. Most of the youth serviced have experienced poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, victimization, and trauma. The Campus provides as a place of healing and opportunities for youth so that they can develop physically, psychologically, and spiritually and lead healthy productive lives.

OYS seeks to engage in economic enterprise, selling high-quality, locally, and sustainable produce and beef, and to reinvest its profits back into the youth programs – creating a sustainable business model. In doing so, youth will learn business management, gain practical and marketable job skills, while earning a livable wage, professional mentorship, and supportive services. The outcomes include youth who contribute to the positive well-being of themselves, their families, and our communities, develops critical protective factors that will reduce recidivism and prevent them from entering into the adult criminal justice system, and provides for a long-term cost savings to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

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Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 222
AND SENATE RESOLUTION 215
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE OFFICE OF
YOUTH SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND HOW TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT
FUNDING MECHANISM TO ALLOW THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES TO
GENERATE INCOME TO SUPPORT ITS VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

March 22, 2022; 3:25 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 222 requests that the Department of Public Safety (PSD), the Office of Youth Services (OYS), and the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) convene a task force to recommend how to create an effective funding mechanism to allow OYS to generate income to support its vocational programs.

PSD respectfully offers comments regarding this measure. Under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 354D, PSD has established the Hawaii Correctional Industries, which allows for expanded industries programs to generate revenue to sustain its operations and allow for capital investment. HRS 354D-10, also allowed

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HCI to create a revolving fund, which allows for all funds collected from sales or disposition of goods and services produced by HCI to be deposited into this account to support, sustain, and enhance HCI's operations.

Should this measure be passed, PSD would participate in the Task Force, in collaboration with OYS and B&F, to help address OYS's funding issues with its vocational training program, sharing information about the Department's experience with HCI and how it may be applied to the OYS program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

22 March 2022

Senate Committee on Human Services

Hearing Time: 3:25 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SCR 222 (AND SR 215) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND HOW TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT FUNDING MECHANISM TO ALLOW THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES TO GENERATE INCOME TO SUPPORT ITS VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee,

We are writing to comment on SCR 222 and SR 215. The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is in support of SB 1128 which permits individual vocational programs within the purview of the office of youth services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults only. SB 1128 would establish the office of youth services revolving fund. We are hopeful that SB 1128 will be advanced this session and if it is not that SCR 222 and SR 215 passes.

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.