



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature, 2023 Regular Session

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

by:

Matthew J. Viola

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Resolution No. and Title: House Concurrent Resolution No. 72, H.D.1 / House Resolution No. 73, H.D.1 - Urging the Office of Youth Services and District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit to Collaborate in Identifying Processes, Procedures, and Strategies for Partnering with Community Organizations to Maximize Rehabilitation and Minimize Recidivism for Juvenile Offenders.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 72, H.D. 1 and House Resolution No. 73, H.D. 1.

The resolutions' recognition of the over-representation of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander youth in the juvenile justice system is an important one. It has been an enduring challenge that the community and the juvenile justice system have not yet been able to address effectively. The resolutions also correctly point to the need for both the community and the juvenile justice system to learn from and collaborate with community organizations and other nations and jurisdictions that have developed or are developing programs based on the wisdom of indigenous peoples, including Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander cultures.

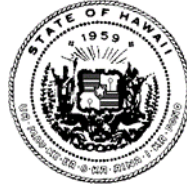


House Concurrent Resolution No.72, H.D.1 and House Resolution No. 73, H.D.1
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) and the Judiciary have been close collaborators over the years, seeking to implement effective rehabilitation services and programs for our youth. While we have not been successful at “cracking” the problem of over-representation, we have been successful at dramatically decreasing the number of youth committed and detained. We look forward to further collaborating with OYS as requested by these resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these resolutions.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 72/ HR73 - URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.**

Hearing: March 31, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of these resolutions and defers to the Office of Youth Services and the Judiciary.

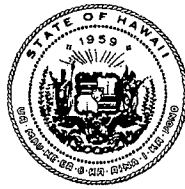
PURPOSE: These resolutions request the Office of Youth Services and the Judiciary to collaborate in identifying processes, procedures, and strategies for partnering with community organizations to maximize rehabilitation and minimize recidivism for juvenile offenders; consider best practices and lessons from other nations and United States jurisdictions that have successful programs; and submit a report of their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's attention and commitment to continuing decades-long efforts to transform the juvenile justice system from a punitive system to a restorative one

with significant legislation such as Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2014, Act 208, SLH 2018, and Act 130, SLH 2022. As a result of these and other initiatives, together, the community of stakeholders has maintained very low admissions to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), and more community-based service providers have initiated culturally based programs for youth and young adults at risk of justice involvement. Last year Hawaii achieved a milestone in the country - for 80 days, Hawaii did not have any girls incarcerated at HYCF.

To maintain and continue to make progress, sustained investment in the Office of Youth Services and the Judiciary is needed, and we respectfully request that the Legislature approve executive budget requests for staff and program funding for the Office of Youth Services as it acts to change the paradigm and address the complexity of needs of Hawaii's youth at risk of involvement with the justice system.

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



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

March 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 72 HD1 / HR 73 HD1 – URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.**

Hearing: March 31, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of these house resolutions and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions is to urge the Office of Youth Services and First Judicial Circuit Family Court to collaborate on strategies to increase rehabilitation and reduce recidivism of juvenile offenders and consider best practices and lessons from other nations and United States jurisdictions that have successful programs.

The OYS appreciates the Legislature's commitment to providing resources for Hawaii's youth at risk and recognizing the over-representation of Pacific Islander youth in our juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

The OYS and Family Court have collaborated for many years to facilitate juvenile justice reform strategies and implement programs and services that reduce the over-representation of Pacific Islander and other marginalized youth within our juvenile justice system. One of these successful collaborative efforts includes the establishment of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family

Wellness Center (HRS 352D-7.5, SLH 2018), with a vision to create a pu'uhonua and support at risk youth through Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

The OYS annually reports to the Legislature on the programs it currently provides and agency collaboration projects it currently participates in. The OYS will continue to collaborate with the Family Court on how to best meet the needs of our youth to prevent juvenile justice system involvement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



HCR72 HD1

URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 31, 2023

2:00 PM

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **STRONG SUPPORT** for HCR72 HD1, which urges the Office of Youth Services and the Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit to collaborate in identifying processes, procedures, and strategies for partnering with community organizations to maximize rehabilitation and minimize recidivism for juvenile offenders, while taking into consideration best practices and lessons from other nations and United States jurisdictions that have successful programs.

OHA wishes to emphasize the thrust of this measure to identify and implement culturally responsive rehabilitation to reduce recidivism, while also echoing the stated fact that “intergenerational trauma, cultural disconnection, homelessness, and other factors can drive and contribute to a high disparity in juvenile offenders.” As indicated by the preamble of this measure, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in the State’s juvenile justice system (and the justice system, overall, making up approximately 37% of the prison population despite representing only 21% of the general population, and with a recidivism rate of approximately 58.6%).¹

In 2016, House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 HD2 SD1 established a task force to make recommendations to the Legislature on ways to improve Hawai‘i’s correctional system. The HCR85 Task Force, in its 2018 report to the Legislature, emphasized “diverting Native Hawaiian youth away from the criminal justice system, in part, through the implementation of culturally relevant programs throughout the justice system.”² Native Hawaiians continue to endure inequities and disparities that stem from unresolved historical injustices³ – injustices that established systems of oppression and institutions of racism that have yet to be dismantled and which persist in their severing of Native Hawaiians from their ancestral lands, their annihilation of Native Hawaiian presence in the Hawaiian Islands, and their attempted erasure of Native Hawaiian identity.⁴

¹ HCR Task Force on Prison Reform, *Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawai‘i Legislature 2019 Regular Session*, Dec. 2018, pp. 4-5; available at: https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/HCR-85-Task-Force-on-Prison-Reform_Final-Report_12.28.18.pdf

² Id. at xiv.

³ Pub. L. 103-150 (1993), 107 Stat. 1510 “Apology Resolution.”

⁴ “If we are ever to have peace and annexation the first thing to do is to obliterate the past,” stated by Samuel Mills Damon, Vice President of the Provisional Government and Executive Council for the Republic of



HCR108

URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS POLICIES AND LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The State of Hawai'i, on the condition of its admission to the Union,⁵ was obligated with an extra duty of care to the Native Hawaiian people,⁶ as a result of these historical injustices. The State reinforced that extra duty of care for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians by enshrining this founding principle within the Hawai'i State Constitution.⁷ The State has continuously acknowledged its extra duty of care to the Native Hawaiian people through additional statutory obligations vested in OHA⁸ and in recognition of Native Hawaiians as the only indigenous, aboriginal, and maoli people of Hawai'i.⁹ **Despite numerous studies and recommendations, the State has NOT taken effective steps to address the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system.**¹⁰

OHA appreciates the opportunity to testify on this measure and urges the Legislature to **PASS** HCR72 HD1 for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians. Mahalo nui loa!

Hawai'i, Council of State (Provisional Government of the Hawaiian Islands, 1895). 26 November 1895. Hawaii State Archives Series 424 Vol. 4.

⁵ Pub. L. 86-3, 73 Stat. 4; Hawai'i Admissions Act of 1959.

⁶ Id. at §5(f).

⁷ Haw. Stat. Con. Art. XII, Section 4-7 (1978).

⁸ Haw. Rev. Stat. §10.

⁹ Haw. Rev. Stat. §10H-1.

¹⁰ Id. at 5.



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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

Vonnell Ramos, President
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Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

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Big Island Substance Abuse
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Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Collins Consulting, LLC
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EPIC `Ohana, Inc.
Family Programs Hawai`i
Family Support Hawai`i
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Center of Maui
Get Ready Hawai`i
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.
Hawai`i Children's Action
Network
Hawai`i Health & Harm
Reduction Center
Ho`ola Na Pua
Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i
Ka Hale Pomaika`i
Kahi Mohala
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance
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
PHOCUSED
PFLAG – Kona, Big Island
Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana
Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)
Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community
Center
The Catalyst Group

March 29, 2023

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 72//HR 73 HD 1 URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations supports HCR 71/HR 72 HD 1 Urging the Office of Youth Services and District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit to Collaborate in Identifying Processes, Procedures, and Strategies for Partnering With Community Organizations to Maximize Rehabilitation and Minimize Recidivism for Juvenile Offenders.

It takes a village to raise a child. The only way we can effectively address the issues that lead to disproportionate engagement with the juvenile justice system is to involve stakeholders at all levels within the government, non-profit, faith-based and business sectors and members of the affected communities and populations.

There are multiple existing initiatives that have already reduced the number of incarcerated youth by 82% since 2010. A local multi-agency partnership has recently received a \$10 million dollar Kellogg Foundation grant to continue efforts to create culturally appropriate prevention and early intervention programs. Hawaii Youth Services Network is currently working with Office of Youth Services and multiple organizations statewide on the start-up of the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Project, established by the legislature in 2022.

We hope that the Hawaii Legislature will continue to provide financial and other support for these important and effective efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

**THE HONORABLE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE GREGG TAKAYAMA, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawai‘i**

March 30, 2023

**RE: H.C.R. No. 72/ H.R. 73: URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND
FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN
IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING
WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND
MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Policy Advocacy Clinic at Berkeley Law, as a member of the national Debt Free Justice campaign,¹ submits the following testimony to express our support for H.C.R. 72/H.R. 73.

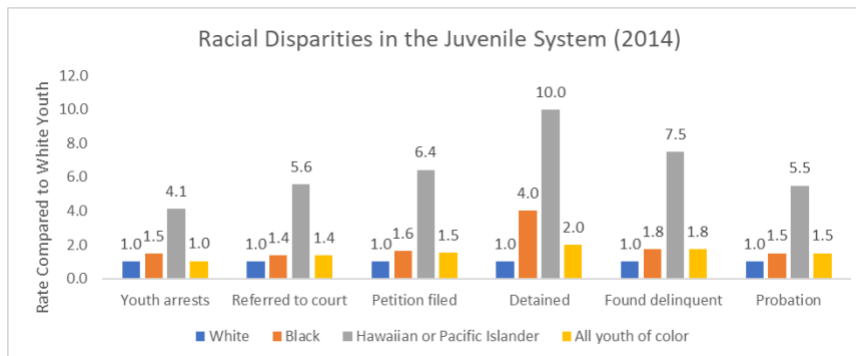
We strongly support efforts by the Office of Youth Services and Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit to collaborate with community organizations to maximize rehabilitation and minimize recidivism for young people in the juvenile system. An important piece of understanding opportunities to further youth reentry and success is gathering data on youth in the system and outcomes. We encourage the Committee to urge the collection of data, particularly relating to fees, court costs, fines, and restitution (hereafter, “monetary sanctions”), in order to better understand disparities and to develop evidence-based solutions and practices that will further youth rehabilitation.

Given our research on monetary sanctions, we offer comments on the importance of understanding the range of costs assessed against youth in the juvenile system. These monetary sanctions exacerbate existing economic inequality by disproportionately harming low-income communities, specifically Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families. Requiring the collection of data would provide insight into how many youth in the state are impacted by monetary sanctions and help inform policymakers about areas of the law that may warrant future legislation.

Evidence from other United State jurisdictions suggest that monetary sanctions are ineffective, criminogenic, and unaffordable for the youth and families who make up Hawai‘i’s juvenile legal system.

We are encouraged by the resolution’s call to engage with research and data from other court systems in the United States. As a member of the national Debt Free Justice campaign, we remain available to support the Office of Youth Services and the Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit with research on successful strategies in other jurisdictions to reduce recidivism and maximize rehabilitation.

Research shows that monetary sanctions are ineffective at supporting youth rehabilitation and may instead increase the likelihood that youth reoffend in the future. In 2017, researchers examining over 1,000 juvenile court cases in Pennsylvania found that monetary sanctions “significantly increased the odds of a youth recidivating . . . even after controlling for relevant youth demographics and case characteristics variables.”² Earlier this year, a study of over 12,000 juvenile court cases in Florida revealed that youth who are assessed monetary sanctions are more likely to recidivate than youth who receive no monetary sanctions.³



Because Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile legal system, this burden tends to fall more heavily on those families.⁴ According to data from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth are 4.1 times more likely to be arrested, 5.6 times more likely to be referred to court, 10 times more likely to be detained, and 7.5 times more likely to be found delinquent than White youth.⁵ With Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth both more likely to be impacted by the juvenile system and poverty, youth monetary sanctions create a perfect storm of monetary extraction from families least likely to be able to afford it.

Data on youth monetary sanctions is not being comprehensively collected.

Over the last two years, we have conducted legal and legislative research, requested data from the family courts, and engaged with a variety of stakeholders including community leaders, advocacy groups, attorneys, judges, and court staff in Hawai‘i.

In our conversations with family courts across the state, we learned that no court is actively tracking information on fees and fines. Only the First Circuit, which also operates an Accountability Program that allows youth to do community service to pay off their debt,⁶ was able to provide data on restitution. From 2017 to 2022, the First Circuit ordered over \$152,000 in restitution against 230 youth and collected approximately \$53,000.⁷ Nearly 100 of those youth have paid less than 25% of the total amount ordered.⁸ Collecting data over time will not only allow family courts to identify juvenile case trends but also to understand the effectiveness of existing programs like the Accountability Program.

It is necessary to understand the current landscape of youth monetary sanctions as Hawai‘i begins to make substantive juvenile legal system reforms.

Local organizations dedicated to juvenile legal system change were recently awarded the Kellogg Grant for their trauma-informed and innovative reforms.⁹ As these organizations prepare for implementation, collecting data and documenting the status quo will be necessary to understand needs and ultimately evaluate progress.

Kaua‘i County has already taken bold action to end the imposition of monetary sanctions on youth.¹⁰ The Judiciary affirmed that “family courts across the state already rarely impose fines,

fees, or costs on youth and their parents.”¹¹ Collecting further data on the assessment—or lack thereof—of monetary sanctions will help identify evidence-based alternatives that promote accountability and rehabilitation and inform future reforms to the juvenile system in Hawai‘i.

Collecting data on youth in the system and outcomes, including around the assessment and collection of monetary sanctions, will lead to more informed and comprehensive reform of Hawai‘i’s juvenile legal system.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our research and feedback on this measure.

¹ Debt Free Justice is a national campaign dedicated to ending the harmful and unjust fees and fines imposed on youth in the justice system and their families. See more at <https://debtfreejustice.org/>.

² Alex R. Piquero & Wesley G. Jennings, *Justice System—Imposed Financial Penalties Increase the Likelihood of Recidivism in a Sample of Adolescent Offenders*, 15 YOUTH VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE 325, 334 (2017).

³ Alex Piquero, Michael Baglivio & Kevin Wolff, *A Statewide Analysis of the Impact of Restitution and Fees on Juvenile Recidivism in Florida Across Race & Ethnicity* (2023), <https://jlc.org/resources/statewide-analysis-impact-restitution-and-fees-juvenile-recidivism-florida-across-race>.

⁴ Burns Institute, *United States of Disparities: National Map: Hawaii* (2014).

<https://usdata.burnsinstitute.org/decision-points/12/hawaii#comparison=2&placement=1&racess=2,3,4,5,6&offenses=5,2,8,1,9,11,10&odc=0&dmp=1&dmp-comparison=2&dmp-decisions=2,3,4,6,5,7,10,8,9&dmp-county=-1&dmp-races=1,2,3,4,7,5,6&dmp-year=2014>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Hawai‘i State Judiciary, “Papa Hoike Kuleana: Accountability Program of the First Circuit Family Court,” https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/featured_news/2016/07/papa-hoike-kuleana-accountability-program-of-the-first-circuit-family-court.

⁷ Family Court of the First Circuit, Restitution Amounts 2017-2022 (on file with authors).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ W.K. Kellogg Foundation, “Partners in Development Foundation,” <https://www.wkkf.org/grants/grant/2022/11/kawailoa-a-transformative-indigenous-model-tim-to-end-youth-incarceration-6011193> (last accessed Mar. 21, 2023).

¹⁰ Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua‘i, State of Hawai‘i, Memorandum to All Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys Re: Juvenile Monetary Sanctions (June 29, 2021), <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/FINAL-Fines-Fees-Kauai-DA-Policy.pdf>.

¹¹ *Relating Youth Fines and Fees: Hearing on H.B. 317 Before the House Comm. on Hum. Servs.*, 32nd Leg., Reg. Sess. (Haw. 2023) (statement of Andrew T. Park, Judge, Fam. Ct. of the First Cir., Haw. State Judiciary).



Adult Friends for Youth

"Redirecting lives to stop Violence"

Testimony on HCR72 HD1

PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, M.S.W.

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**Past Chair of the Board*

Submitted to: Committee on Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

My name is Debbie Spencer-Chun, President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth (AFY). I support HCR72 HD1 with some notations.

I highly agree:

- That there is too high of a representation of Micronesian, Native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Islanders in our juvenile justice system.
- That there is intergenerational trauma, an overall disconnect, economically disadvantages and other contributing factors in juvenile offenders
- That a partnership with community organizations may be an appropriate practice to be responsive to maximize rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.
- That government systems and/or agencies such as OYS, Family Court, Department of Education, non-profits etc. can be more collaborative in helping to resolve this issue.
- That we can be more culturally respectful and responsive of the person and of the community.

I also do believe as someone who has worked with high-risk youth for many years that:

- Cultural experience is not a requirement or end all for success in this field. While cultural relevance is highly important, it is possible to work effectively with young people from diverse backgrounds without having direct experience with their cultures.
- The key to success in working with youth at risk is to approach each young person with an open mind and heart, be non-judgmental and have a willingness to learn. This means taking the time to listen to their experiences and perspectives, and being open to learning about their cultural backgrounds and traditions.
- It is also important to recognize that cultural competence is a process, not a destination. No one can be an expert on every culture, but we can all strive to be culturally respectful, humble and responsive. This means acknowledging our own biases and limitations, and being willing to learn from the young people we work with.
- In my experience, the most successful youth workers are those who are able to build strong relationships with young people, regardless of their cultural backgrounds. This requires patience, peace, empathy, acceptance, respect, love, and a willingness to meet young people where they are at.

"A child will lead them".

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to testify.

3375 Koapaka Street, Suite B290 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 • (808) 833-8775 • FAX: (808) 833-6469
afy@afyhawaii.com • Web Page: <http://www.afyhawaii.com>

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

3/31/23

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Time: 2:00 PM

Location: State Capitol

Re: Support for HCR 72

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee:

We are writing in support of HCR 72, URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

We have an excellent and longstanding collaboration with private sector and public sector stakeholders, including the Office of Youth Services, representatives of the Judiciary, and many others. We are working hard to promote the goals of this resolution.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

HCR-72-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 9:03:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole DeJesus	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs,

My Name is Nicole De Jesus and I strong support HCR 72.

Mahalo,

Nicole De Jesus

HCR-72-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:13:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR72 HD1