



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

March 21, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 71 / HR 72 – URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES TO DEVELOP A LIST AND INVENTORY OF PROGRAMS THAT WORK WITH PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Hearing: March 23, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) appreciates the resolution's intent and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions is to urge the Office of Youth Services to develop an inventory of programs that work with Pacific Islander youth and their families.

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

The OYS supported session measure HB 438 RELATING TO YOUTH PROGRAMS, which provided a coordinator within OYS and funding to establish an inventory of programs and provide awareness and coordination of community-based services for Pacific Island youth and their families. The OYS annually [reports](#) to the Legislature on the programs it currently provides to the community. OYS is also working with community stakeholders and providers on new initiatives at Kawaihoa Youth & Family Wellness Center that may inform additional program development for Pacific Island Youth. As OYS does not have additional resources or staff to

research and develop a comprehensive program inventory, however, OYS will connect with providers for their input on effective programs for Pacific Islander youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

Bay Clinic
Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i
Big Island Substance Abuse
Council
Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Collins Consulting, LLC
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC `Ohana, Inc.
Family Programs Hawai`i
Family Support Hawai`i
Friends of the Children's Justice
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 20, 2023

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

COMMENTS ON HCR 71/HR 72 URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES TO DEVELOP A LIST AND INVENTORY OF PROGRAMS THAT WORK WITH PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations supports the intent of HCR 71/HR 72 Urging the Office of Youth Services to Develop a List and Inventory of Programs that Work with Pacific Islander Youth and Their Families

Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children and youth are consistently overrepresented in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and among homeless youth. They have higher risks for poor educational and health outcomes. The need and deserve initiatives to identify and implement effective approaches.

Compiling a statewide directory of programs that work with Pacific Islander youth and their families is only the first step. The information is dynamic so a system to regularly update the data will be needed. Outreach and awareness campaigns to reach potential users – community members and service providers – will be needed. To effectively reach Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians, materials will have to be available in multiple languages and accessible formats.

All of this requires time, funding, and dedicated staffing..

Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends an amendment to the resolution to require the Office of Youth Services to develop a plan and budget for collecting and maintaining data on programs and resources for Pacific Islander youth and their families with the intent of funding the implementation of the plan in the 2024 legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director