



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

March 18, 2019



TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: SB 1019 SD1, HD1, Relating to Youth**

Hearing: Monday, March 18, 2019, 2:05 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of the measure but believes the establishment of a task force to determine existing diversion programs statewide would be duplicative of the work group that OYS is currently convening to review and address status offense reform in three primary areas: practice, policy, and system level. The work group involves stakeholders, including Judiciary, Police, Department of Education, Attorney General, and community-based agencies, and will prioritize and make recommendations to improve the community's response to status offenses, including existing diversion programs and possible statutory changes.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the measure is to establish a task force to determine existing diversion programs statewide that can assist youth to access and link with services.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center EPIC, Inc.

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Hale Kipa, Inc.

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Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

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Kokua Kalihi Valley

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 10, 2019

Representative Joy San Buaenaventura, Chair

And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1019SD 1 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 1019 SD 1 Relating to Youth.

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 'Ohana to raise a child and the Safe Places Network and the proposed status offender diversion project will expand our children's 'ohana through caring neighbors in our communities.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. 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.

While much of the network resources are already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability; 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.

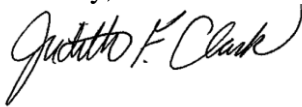
The 24-hour crisis response system will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies will be trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour crisis response site assess the situation. They will notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Services, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

After the immediate crisis response, youth-serving agencies will follow-up to help families resolve the issues that led the youth to seek help from a Safe Place site.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

Executive Director  
Adriana Ramelli

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Date: March 18, 2019

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony Supporting the Intent of S.B. 1019 H.D. 1 with Comments  
Relating to Youth

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Good afternoon Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports the intent of S.B. 1019 H.D. 1, and respectfully offers additional comments for the Committee's consideration.

According to the Department of the Attorney General's Juvenile Delinquency Trends in Hawai'i Data Book for 2007 – 2016, more than half of arrests of children in the State of Hawai'i during that time period were for status offenses like skipping school and running away from home.

Children often run away from home and skip school in response to traumatic events in their lives, such as experiencing physical abuse, sexual violence, and neglect, or due to unaddressed behavioral health and substance abuse issues. Consequently, these children need supportive services and safety to heal and recover, rather than involvement in the criminal justice system.

SATC would be grateful for the opportunity to be included in the ongoing discussion concerning programs that help youth recover from adverse events and trauma in their lives and divert them from poor outcomes.

However, we also note that Hawai'i does need a safe places for youth program, as part of the continuum of options for at-risk youth to seek and receive help in their communities. Therefore, we ask that the Committee please consider amending S.B. 1019 H.D. 1 to restore the language from the prior S.D. 1 that would establish a pilot safe places for youth program, consistent with the recommendations of the Hawai'i Youth Services Network.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.



March 16, 2019

House's Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2019 – 2:05 p.m.

**RE: SUPPORT w/ Concerns for Senate Bill 1019 SD 1 HD 1 – RELATING TO YOUTH**

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair San Buenaventura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in SUPPORT but with concerns for Senate Bill 1019 SD 1 HD 1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 1019 SD 1 HD 1 would establish & appropriate funds for a safe places for youth pilot program. Requires & appropriates funds for the office of youth services to reduce the use of status offense laws & implement a status offense diversion program.

On the average night 125 minors sleep on the streets of Honolulu, the 11<sup>th</sup> largest city in the US, without any support from the government or families. Out of the 11<sup>th</sup> largest cities Honolulu is the only city not to have a "safe haven" (shelter for homeless unaccompanied minors). The only support available homeless unaccompanied minors is 'Youth Outreach' a drop-in shelter located in Waikiki that is open 4 days a week & 3 hours a day. We have no reliable information for homeless unaccompanied minors for the neighbor islands due to the lack on any services. The LGBT Caucus understands that SB 1019 SD 1 HD 1 would not rectify these situations but it is a start.

The LGBT Caucus is concerned with the "safe places" portion of the bill. Given that these public places of business will not have back-ground checks on their employees that are required for all other organization that work with youth like YO (Youth Outreach) & RYSE (Residential Youth Services & Empowerment) are required to do.

The LGBT Caucus hopes that this pilot project will lead to the state funding a "safe haven" shelter for homeless unaccompanied minors on every island. If we are going to hope to end homelessness we need to head it off before it begins. Homeless unaccompanied minors will become homeless adults at a far greater rate than their peers.

If SB 1019 SD 1 HD 1 moves forward the LGBT Caucus requests that all identified physical "safe places" be required to be supportive of the LGBTQIA community. Besides be required by Hawaii's public accommodations law but also the fact that while the LGBTQIA community accounts for about 10% of the overall population, 40% of all homeless unaccompanied minors identify as LGBTQIA.

The LGBT Caucus of the DPH asks that you support SB 1019 SD 1 HD 1 as it will help to protect the all of Hawaii's homeless unaccompanied minors.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair

**SB-1019-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 3:34:39 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/18/2019 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1019. Please pass this bill.

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

**LATE**

**SB-1019-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:24:52 AM  
Testimony for JUD on 3/18/2019 2:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: