



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 Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: SB 231, SD1 RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 8:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** OYS supports the measure. Act 106, SLH 2018, established a Youth Commission to advise the Governor and Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the state. The act authorized funds for only FY 2019. This measure provides funding as a fixed cost in the base budget of the Department of Human Services on a recurring basis. This will allow the position to attract a larger pool of applicants compared to a temporary position status, in order to carry out the duties of the Youth Commission.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the measure is to establish a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent youth commission administrator within the Office of Youth Services to administer the youth commission. An appropriation of \$81,416 to fund the position and other associated administrative costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSELESSNESS

Rep. Joy SanBuenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

8:45 am

Room 329

### **STRONG SUPPORT - SB 231 SD1 ADMINISTRATOR FOR YOUTH COMMISSION**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 231 SD1 establishes that the youth commission administrator and makes an appropriation to fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent youth commission administrator position.

This bill is important because Act 106, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, established a youth commission to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities programs, and budgets concerning youth and appropriated funds to hire one staff position to administer the youth commission and other administrative costs. The funds, however, were only authorized for one state fiscal year and funding for the position will end on June 30, 2019.

This bill is necessary to hire an Administrator for the Youth Commission and get it going. In Hawai'i we are proud of our young people who have organized actions against gun violence and for lowering the age for the right to vote. Our youth have demonstrated that they have a voice and are using it to make Hawai'i a better place

This Commission is a great way to engage our children and youth in civic issues and to help them understand the broader reach of policymaking. We earnestly hope that the administrator will be a person who listens more than talks, guides more than directs, and loves our youth unconditionally!

We urge the committee to support SB 231 SD1. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify!

# 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.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of  
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action  
Network

Hawaii Health & Harm  
Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

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

January 24, 2019

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 231 SD 1 RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION

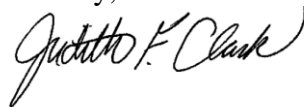
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 231 SD 1 relating to the Youth Commission.

HYSN has strongly supported the establishment of the Youth Commission because children and youth are part of our communities and need to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

This bill will establish the staffing support that is essential for any State Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director





**TO:** Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** Wednesday, March 20, 2019; 8:45 a.m., Conference Room 329

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 231 SD 1- RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION**

**We ask you to support SB 231 which establishes that the youth commission administrator shall administer the youth commission and makes an appropriation to fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent youth commission administrator position.** This bill provides staffing support for a youth commission within the Office of Youth Services to advise the Governor and Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets relating to youth.

Funding for this position will allow for a successful youth commission that will engage the future generation in real-world conversations about the issues surrounding their lives and our communities. By involving our youth, we will encourage them to be fully engaged in Hawaii's current civic landscape, invested in our State's future and will affirm that their voice matters. Civic engagement for our youth will help them to learn new skills, gain experience and be active participants in helping to create a bright future for Hawaii. As an organization who works together with our youth, PACT wholeheartedly supports giving youth a voice and giving youth opportunities to have a "seat at the table". Our children are our future and should be active participants in the work of our community. Our youth have a lot to share... it is important that we listen. Let's build up the next generation of innovative thinkers, problem solvers, solution builders and civic leaders!

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 231 SD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**SB-231-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:25:19 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/20/2019 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Act 206, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, established a youth commission to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies as well as the needs, programs, etc., related to Hawaii's youth.

SB 231 SD1 will provide the necessary funding to hire an Administrator for the Youth Commission to become fully established and functioning.

Young people are the future of Hawaii. It is important to nurture them and engage them meaningfully in the life of our community so that they will be able to help address the challenges that face Hawaii.

**Chair San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019  
8:45 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB231 SD1 RELATING TO THE YOUTH  
COMMISSION**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a freshman at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, currently serving as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). I am **testifying in support of SB231 SD1 relating to the youth commission.**

The Youth Commission bill was the very first bill I ever testified on when I first got involved in the legislative process as a high schooler. I also had the opportunity as a member of the YPDA Social Justice Action Committee to testify both in writing and orally last session when the youth commission bill, HB1716 passed and became Act 106. One of my passions is trying to help get more people, especially young people involved and active in civic life as it strengthens democracy while empowering individuals, and I continue to believe that this commission will serve as a great venue for this to happen.

I appreciate that steps are continuing to be taken in establishing the youth commission and that this bill is working on an important part of the process by setting up a youth administrator to administer the youth commission. That being said, I am also very passionate about economic justice, and am helping to work on pushing for raising the minimum wage to a livable wage for working families in 2019. In the state with a very high cost of living, I hope in your deliberations on this legislation that you will be able to insure that the full time and permanent youth commission administrator has economic security, as all full time workers should be able to afford their basic needs, while assisting in the active engagement of our future leaders. **I support SB231 SD1 and request for it to be passed through your committee.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin  
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair  
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)  
1561 Kanunu St.  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com