

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

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

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

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 9, 2021

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

Representative David Tarnas, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Water and Land

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 6/HR 7 URGING THE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION TO MANDATE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION TO HOLD QUARTERLY TOWN HALLS TO  
RECEIVE CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE  
COMMUNITY.**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 6/HR 7 Urging the Board of Education to Mandate the Department Of Education to hold Quarterly Town Halls to Receive Concerns and Suggestions from the Community.

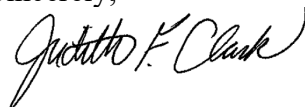
In October 2020, 55 youth gathered over a 3-day period to come to agreement on what the Hawaii Legislature needs to do to make our state a better place to live, learn, and work. More than 1,100 youth then voted to rank the priorities.

Town hall meetings to enable youth, parents, and community members to share their concerns about education was one of the ten recommendations.

Hawaii Youth Services Network urges you to honor the voices of our youth by passing this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 4:40:30 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Needed.

**HCR-6**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 5:13:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR6/HR7**

I support this bill to open two-way communication with the Superintendent or other DOE administration.

During this school year, communication has been at its worse, due to one-way communication, lack of communication, untimely communication, lack of clarity in communication, or no communication!

Whether it be students, parents, or community members , having an avenue like town halls could greatly decrease the gap between the DOE and the public.

The only option for students within the state public education system to voice their opinions and concerns directly to the Superintendent of Education and administration of the Department of Education is through testimony at the Board of Education meetings. However, even then only agenda items can be discussed.

Student voice includes their expertise, opinions, and ideas that are part of the school community. Students are considered the CUSTOMER!

Town halls need to be open to sharing ideas, plans, concerns, and provide feedback or follow up.

These are opportunities for student s to learn and practice civil participation.

Quarterly town halls are a beginning but they have to go hand in hand with communication!

If communication is not clear, quarterly town halls will be full of pent up tension, due to the lack of avenues for the community to communicate with the Department.