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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES 820 Mililani Street, Suite 817 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 LATE

January 28, 2008

TO:

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM:

Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** 

SB 2822 RELATING TO NON-SCHOOL HOUR PROGRAMS

Hearing:

Monday, January 28, 2008, 3:45 pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

## **POSITION:**

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) recognizes the importance of structured programs and activities during the non-school hours for children and youth to prevent or reduce the risk of delinquent and problem behaviors and to establish and strengthen protective factors for those children and youth. The OYS has supported such activities through its funding of community-based agencies and programs that strive to establish safe, nurturing environments during non-school hours to develop competencies that enable them to achieve successful transition to young adulthood.

The OYS is currently funding ten (10) agencies to provide non-school hour programs for youth statewide with funding appropriated by Act 281/SLH 2006. The funded programs include a variety of activities, including home work assistance, video and music projects, fitness activities, interpersonal skills trainings, community service opportunities and intergenerational mentoring. The OYS collaborated with the Department of Education and City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation to plan for implementation of services.

Testimony of the Office of Youth Services on SB 2822
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We appreciate the over-all concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives, but we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Date of Hearing: January 28, 2008

LATE

Committee: Senate Education

Department:

Education

Person Testifying:

Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title:

S.B. No. 2822, Non-School Hour Programs, TANF funds

Purpose:

Appropriates TANF funds for non-school hour programs to be

expended by the DOE, OYS, and the counties.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports and strongly recommends passage of this Bill, recognizing the importance of continuing the establishment of safe and structured learning environments for school-age children during non-school hours.

To this end, the Department has collaborated with the Departments of

Human Services and Parks and Recreation, Hawaii State Student

Council, and community agencies for program planning,

implementation, and evaluation of non-school hour programs and will

continue this collaboration should the Bill be funded. The Department

strongly urges passage of this Bill, as it is one of the Board of

Education's budget priorities.