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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

820 Milifani Street, Suite 817 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 31, 2011



TO:

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair

House Committee on Human Services

FROM:

David Hipp, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1067, Relating to the Transfer of Youth to an Adult Correctional Facility

Hearing:

Monday, January 31, 2011; 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports House Bill 1067, Relating to the Transfer of Youth to an Adult Correctional Facility, which would repeal HRS §352-28 which authorizes the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services, with the approval of the Family Court, to transfer a committed youth from the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility to an adult correctional facility for disciplinary or other reasons.

This proposed bill will ensure that youth committed to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility will not be transferred, for disciplinary or other reasons, to adult correctional facilities where they would be exposed to serious adult offenders and subjected to possible physical, mental, and sexual assault.

In addition, the proposed bill simplify the State of Hawaii's efforts to comply with two of the four core requirements of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), specifically that:

- no juvenile may be detained or confined in any adult jail or lockup (with the exception that juveniles accused of a crime may be held for up to six hours for processing)
- juveniles being securely detained must be "sight and sound" separate for adult detainees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.