

JUDtestimony

From: Tracy A Ryan [tracyar@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 9:30 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony for Thursday

TESTIMONY

Harm Reduction Hawaii
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822


February 5, 2011

RE: HB 684 H.D.1 to be heard Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 3:00 PM in conference room 325.

To the members of the House Committee on Judiciary

We support passage of HB 684 H.D.1. Harm Reduction Hawaii is a support organization that represents the interests of the many professional agencies providing social services through a harm reduction model. The fate of teenage runaways and homeless youth is seldom a happy one. Most turn to various survival crimes that victimize others while providing no long term hopes of escape for those involved. Doing something as simple as giving social service agencies the legal right to provide basic shelter seems so obviously in the public interest I can't imagine what has taken us so long to get here.

Sincerely:



Tracy Ryan
Executive Director
Harm Reduction Hawaii

(808) 534-1846

tracyar@hawaiiintel.net

JUDtestimony

From: Judith Clark [jclark@hysn.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 3:45 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Judith Clark
Subject: Testimony HB 684

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011
TIME: 2:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 325

February 8, 2011

To: Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 684 RELATING TO MINORS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, strongly support HB 684 Relating to Minors.

This bill will increase the safety of minors who are runaway or homeless by allowing them to consent for admission to an emergency youth shelter if their parents/guardians cannot be reached to provide consent or parents refuse shelter but will not allow the youth to return home.

The number of youth in need of shelter who cannot obtain parental consent is small, but the consequences when young people are forced to remain on the street are severe. These youth are at high risk of physical or sexual assault, poor nutrition, inadequate health care, and inability to attend school. Child Welfare Services is usually unable to intervene as it has very specific criteria for opening a case and these situations do not usually meet the threshold.

Admitting a youth to shelter not only assures a safe place to stay, it also allows shelter staff and other service providers to begin to address the family issues that led to the youth's leaving home. Family counseling can be initiated to facilitate the minor's safe return home and, if that is not in the best interests of the child, appropriate alternative housing can be arranged.

This bill grew out of the work of the Safe Shelter for Youth Work Group, established by legislative resolution in 2008. All members of the Work Group agreed that allowing youth to provide informed consent for shelter was a key action to increase the safety of homeless youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

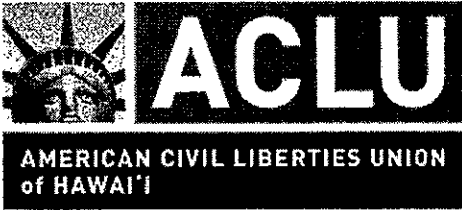
JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 2:26 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: lt@acluhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: 2.10.11.pdf

Testimony for JUD 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB684

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurie Temple
Organization: ACLU of Hawaii
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lt@acluhawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:



Committee: Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 10, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 684, Relating to Minors

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.B. 684, which seeks to allow a minor to give informed consent for emergency shelter and related services.

This bill recognizes that many youth needing emergency shelter simply cannot obtain parental consent and should not be required to have it to obtain emergency services. Children are entitled to similar rights and social benefits as other citizens and should be provided with necessary services rather than forced onto the streets.

Removing potential civil or criminal liability for shelters that are otherwise able to satisfy the emergency needs of runaway or abandoned youth will provide much needed support to shelters, and, most importantly, to the children who will finally be able to access the help that they need.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawai'i

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 2:17 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: jkaplan@waikihc.org
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: HB684 2.9.11.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB684

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Kaplan
Organization: Waikiki Health Center
Address: 277 Ohua Ave. Honolulu, HI
Phone: 295-9604
E-mail: jkaplan@waikihc.org
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:



WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

Compassionate Healing. Expert Care.

February 9, 2011

In support

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Jeff Kaplan, MPH Director of Youth and Senior Services

SUBJECT: HB 684, Relating to Minors

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011; 2:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

The Waikiki Health Center supports House Bill 684, Relating to Minors, which would allow a minor to provide informed consent for emergency shelter and related services. The purpose of this bill is to assure that there are safe and secure shelter options for homeless and runaway minors who currently lack the authority to consent for their own housing.

Minor children originating from dysfunctional and/or abusive backgrounds often choose to leave their place of residence seeking safety. These youth are at-risk because they cannot access emergency shelter due to the inability of agencies to house a minor without the approval of a parent or guardian.

Admitting a youth to shelter not only assures a safe haven, it also allows shelter staff and other service providers to begin to process issues that led to the youth's leaving their place of residence. Counseling can be initiated to facilitate the minor's return to an appropriate environment or until alternative accommodations can be arranged.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kaplan, MPH
Director of Youth and Senior Services

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:41 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kreardon@pphi.org
Subject: Testimony for HB684 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: Testimony HB 684 JUD.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB684

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie Reardon
Organization: Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Address: 1350 S.King Street Suite 309 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 589-1156 ext 226
E-mail: kreardon@pphi.org
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:



1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • www.pphi.org • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

February 9, 2011

To: Chair Gilber Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 684 HD1**

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports HB 684 HD1, which allows minors to provide informed consent to enter emergency shelters and access services. We believe that emergency shelters are a crucial part of the safety net needed to care for Hawaii's young people.

Young people become homeless for a variety of reasons. According to the National Runaway Switchboard, the most common reason for young people wanting to runaway or actually leaving home, reported in 26% of cases, was conflict at home.¹ Too often parental or guardian consent is unable to be obtained because a parent is unreachable or unwilling to consent, or reaching out jeopardizes the child's safety and wellbeing. Allowing youth better access to shelters helps them access much needed safety and social services.

In the past, the State of Hawaii has recognized the need to protect the health and well being of young people and has passed laws allowing them to receive basic health care² and family planning and sexual health care³ without the consent of a parent or guardian. Passing HB 684 HD1 is a logical step forward towards ensuring that Hawaii's youth population receives the care and services needed to stay safe and go on to build productive and healthy lives. Therefore, PPHI asks this committee to pass HB 684 HD1.

¹ See Why the Run: An In-depth Look at America's Runaway Youth, National Runaway Switchboard, May 2010, <http://www.nrscrisisline.org/media/whytheyrun/report.html>

² See Hawaii Revised Statutes Ch. 577D

³ See Hawaii Revised Statutes Ch. 577A