
From: Judith Clark [jclark@hysn.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 4:50 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony HB 726 Foster Care
Attachments: hb726 foster care 21.doc

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2011

TIME: 9:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

My testimony is in the attached file and also pasted below in case of problems with the attachment. Mahalo.

January 25, 2011

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 726 RELATING TO FOSTER CARE

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, strongly supports HB 726 Relating to Foster Care.

Many youth who age out of foster care at age 18 are not fully prepared for the responsibilities of adult living. Some have not even graduated from high school; most lack the employment skills and experience to earn a living wage. Like most 18 year olds, they may not have learned how to manage their time and money, prepare nutritious meals, or manage an apartment.

Approximately 30% of former foster youth become homeless before age 21 and most live in poverty.

Other states that have extended foster care benefits on a voluntary basis to age 21 have found that this is effective in increasing educational attainment, developing independent living skills, and reducing homelessness among this population. Hawaii's foster youth need and deserve this additional assistance to help them become healthy and productive citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please accept my apologies for not appearing in person to testify; I am traveling on HYSN business on the mainland.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director
Hawaii Youth Services Network
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808-531-2198

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanent Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctr. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

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