

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/12/2013

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0391,SD2 RELATING TO YOUTH

Purpose of Bill: Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a two-year safe places for youth pilot program, which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can access safety and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator. Appropriates funds for the coordinator position and residential options for the pilot program. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) is in support of SB 391 SD2 as it begins the challenging work of creating a safe haven for youth who lack a stable home environment. Such a program will provide youth with an opportunity to thrive as individuals and achieve optimal educational outcomes.

The Department is poised to partner with the Office of Youth Service, other agencies, branches and organizations in this pilot effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure that will provide a safety net for our at-risk youth.

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 1:50 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jclark@hysn.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB391 on Mar 12, 2013 09:30AM*

Categories: Maroon

SB391

Submitted on: 3/8/2013

Testimony for HUS on Mar 12, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith F. Clark	Hawaii Youth Services Network	Support	Yes

Comments:

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TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 391, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO YOUTH

**House Committee on Human Services
Hon. Mele Carroll, Chair
Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

Honorable Chair Carroll and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of SB 391, relating to youth.

As advocates for survivors of human trafficking, we've encountered numerous minors while conducting outreach to victims. Sadly, many of these victims are misidentified as status offenders by law enforcement, who then subject them to detainment, arrest, and the legal protocols of family court. These children often, but not always, come from broken or abusive homes. What is almost always true, however, is that, once on the run, these kids are targeted by pimps and sex traffickers seeking to exploit their youth for financial gain. We feel that creating a network of "safe places" for the provision of counseling and information about available services would help address our victims' needs—especially with regard to psychological treatment and trauma care—by linking together existing services under a coordinated umbrella. That said, we urge you to be vigilant about safeguarding against lapses in privacy protection when information is shared between agencies participating in the pilot program, since such lapses could jeopardize the safety of victims and disincentivize utilization of the program's resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance

TESTIMONY ON SB 391, SD 2 RELATING TO YOUTH
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 12, 2013

9:30 am

Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services. My name is Stephen Morse and I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change. I am here to testify in **support of SB 391, SD 2 Relating to Youth**, particularly as it relates to the establishment of a coordinator position as well as the implementation of a pilot program where youth have access to various support services, resources, guidance, and advice where as they otherwise would not have anywhere to go and no one to turn to in times of crisis.

Providing these types of intervention services and resources were identified as a priority by Hawai i's youth in the 2012 Children & Youth Summit sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus in October. After the Summit, the Keiki Caucus formed the Safehouse Working Group to explore alternatives to establishing a safehouse for youth system in Hawaii. The Working Group found that many of the needed safehouse services are already being provided by existing social service organizations, but there was a need to better coordinate a safehouse continuum of services and find better ways to communicate available safehouse resources to children and youth. Of major importance to working group members was the concern expressed by Madeline Sckrocki, President of the State Student Council, that youth who run away from abusive home or school environments are often afraid to seek help for fear of being arrested; and that therefore, there is a need to de-criminalize the efforts by youth to seek help.

Of special concern to us should be the need for a coordinated safehouse system in remote, rural areas of the State where youth are often underserved. In January of 2012, the Director of our Neighborhood Place of Puna reported that a young, 7th grade girl began dropping into the office, located directly across the street from Pahoa School, sporadically over a period of 2 months. After 2 months, she began coming every day and often during school hours. It turns out that besides having a poor home environment, the girl was being bullied at school. NP staff believed the bullying was the result of the girl's ambiguity about her sexual identity. Eventually, NP staff was able to work with Pahoa School counselors to get the girl additional services she needed, but it was a difficult process because of the lack of services in lower Puna.

I am again, strongly in support of SB 391, SD 2 Relating to Youth. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify afternoon.

Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services. My name is Jonathan Callejo, and I am a graduate student at the School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I writing in **support of SB391 SD2 Relating to Youth.**

I have worked in the social work and related youth mental health fields for approximately 15 years and had the opportunity to work with both at-risk youth and youth that required rehabilitative services. I cannot overstate the importance of preventative measures to help at-risk youth

A 15-year longitudinal study was released in 2011 by Jennifer Benoit-Bryan, a PhD Candidate at the University of Illinois, Chicago titled *The Runaway Youth Longitudinal Study*. Over 15,000 adolescents were followed to their adulthood beginning in 1994 through 2009 and the study examined how their situations during adolescence were connected to their outcomes as adults and how run away behavior as adolescents impacted their adult lives.

The report found differences between runaways and non-runaways. Runaways had distinct impacts on their health, economic situation and involvement in the justice system by the time there were adults. Runaways were 50 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts and three times more likely to attempt suicide. They experienced increased risks of general health issues and lower health status. They were more than twice as likely to become smokers and nearly 70 percent more likely to use marijuana. They were nearly 50 percent more likely of having a sexually transmitted disease. Their annual personal income was nearly \$9000 less than their peers that were non-runaways. They were approximately 75% more likely to be a recipient of some form of public assistance as adults and 50% more likely to have a lower education level or lack a high school degree or GED. They were approximately two and a half times more likely to have been arrested as adults and were 99 percent more likely to be involved in selling drugs as an adult.

There are consequences when adolescents run away that then carry over into their adult lives. These consequences have effects that are seen both for the individual and society. The outcome we all wish to avoid is a youth who says to themselves, "I don't know what to do. I don't know where to get help. I don't feel anyone is available to help me. I may as well take my chances on my own." By increasing the support of programs, agencies and organizations that serve at-risk youth, and helping them better coordinate their efforts through partnerships and networking, we can better serve the needs of both at-risk youth and the community. I urge the continued support of SB 391 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I shall also be available for questions.

kobayashi1-Joni

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 2:12 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: kukuna@huimalamaoekai.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB391 on Mar 12, 2013 09:30AM*

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SB391

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for HUS on Mar 12, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kukunaokala Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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