

SB1235

Measure Title: RELATING TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR JUVENILES IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Report Title: Appropriations; Grants; Department of Education (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds to the DOE for two alternative schools to provide ongoing education to juveniles in the justice system.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): NISHIHARA, CHUN OAKLAND, ESPERO, HARIMOTO, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/29/2015	S	Introduced.
1/29/2015	S	Passed First Reading.
1/29/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
2/11/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 02-18-15 1:15PM in conference room 229.

S = Senate | **H** = House | **D** = Data Systems | **\$** = Appropriation measure | **ConAm** = Constitutional Amendment



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

Date: 02/18/2015
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1235 RELATING TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR JUVENILES IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the DOE for two alternative schools to provide ongoing education to juveniles in the justice system.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SB 1235 to establish an alternative school program concentrated on the Leeward Oahu and metro-Honolulu areas that provides ongoing education to juveniles involved in the justice system.

The proposed measure presents an opportunity for the Department to expand programmatic services for at-risk youth by ensuring that they have access to appropriate educational and support services in an alternative learning center.

We appreciate that the bill recognizes the need for an additional general fund appropriation to assist with the effective implementation of this measure. The Department requests that the implementation of SB 1235 would not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education

Senator Michelle H. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

By
R. Mark Browning
Deputy Chief Judge, Senior Family Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1235, Relating to Alternative Schools for Juveniles in the Justice System.

Purpose: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for two alternative schools to provide ongoing education to juveniles in the justice system

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary submits this testimony in strong support of this bill authorizing and funding alternative schools, particularly in the Leeward Oahu and metro-Honolulu areas, to be developed by the Department of Education (DOE).

For many and varied reasons, many of which are outside the control of the students, at-risk youth and youth in the juvenile justice system are not well equipped to succeed in the traditional school setting. Often their younger years have been shaped by traumatic life experiences, dysfunctional family systems, continuing neglect and abuse, and lack of school readiness skills. Many of these early experiences result in short attention spans, impulsive

behaviors, difficulty managing anger and frustration, and dissociative coping behaviors. Many are also laboring under undiagnosed or misdiagnosed psychological or educational disabilities. As a result, the youth are unable to succeed and experience repeated failures, despite their best efforts and the best efforts of their teachers in traditional settings.

In the past, alternative schools have been developed and were successful. The Family Court worked closely with such schools to refer appropriate students and then to support those students by augmenting their court orders with individual and/or family counseling. We also worked closely with the alternative schools to ensure student accountability through probation incentives and court reviews and appropriate court sanctions.

The DOE already provides two models of successful alternative schools in the programs that they administer in Hale Ho'omalulu (the detention home) and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. These two schools are prime examples of flexible curricula, motivated experienced teachers who are invested in every single student, individualized learning goals, and close attention to bridging the youth to mainstream traditional schooling in the future. Despite the circumstances that placed the youth in these two facilities, they are indeed fortunate to receive such care.

This bill places confidence in the DOE to adequately meet the needs of this special population. The funds invested in this program will assist the youth in concrete ways and will maximize their chances to develop into healthy and contributing members of this community, thereby repaying the community's investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai'i

February 18, 2015

RE: S.B. 1235; RELATING TO YOUTH.

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and members of the Senate Committee on Education, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") **strongly supports** S.B. 1235.

S.B. 1235 is consistent with this Department's ongoing concern for at-risk youth, as reflected in our efforts to submit similar bills [S.B. 419 (2013) and H.B. 237 (2013)]. Over the years, increases in juvenile crime have prompted various business groups to request our assistance in curbing crime against their establishments, and the Department has seen increasing incidents where the juvenile offenders are as young as 12 years old. Many of these juvenile offenders are excluded (primarily through their own doing) from the traditional public education system, which only worsens the problem and may increase the chances of future involvement in the criminal justice system. At the same time, the Family Court has implemented a program called Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, in which juveniles are (ideally) diverted from detention to attend alternative programs. Yet there continue to be very few programs available to juvenile offenders in Hawaii, often leaving them with little or no meaningful alternatives.

The purpose of S.B. 1235 is to establish **two (2) additional "alternative schools"** to adequately service our at-risk youth. We defer to the DOE regarding exactly what would be entailed or necessary to implement these additional alternative schools, but we highly recommend looking at the DOE's "High Core Program"—formerly known as Storefront School—which is located in Wahiawa.

Alternative schools such as High Core provide a non-traditional education that addresses each individual student. Students who are identified by their home-schools as severely alienated or at-risk are enrolled in the alternative school, with a goal to reduce or prevent student dropout in the school district. In addition to academics, High Core provides its students with a learning environment that is better-suited to their needs, and helps them to develop appropriate socio-emotional competencies and other self-development through guidance and counseling activities.

Although our Department's primary role is to prosecute juvenile and criminal cases within the justice system, our overarching focus is on public safety for the community, and that starts with prevention and education. If a sufficient number of programs like High Core were developed and implemented, the Department strongly believes that many more at-risk youth could be “diverted” before they ever become part of the juvenile justice system, or the criminal justice system.

For all the reasons above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports S.B. 1235. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Courage House Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kaanalike

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)

Project

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

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

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

he Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YWCA of Kauai

February 12, 2015

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1235 RELATING TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, opposes SB 1235 Relating to Alternative Schools for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

Youth that are involved in the juvenile justice system need supports from their family, school and community. Nearly half have been arrested for status offenses such as running away from home or being truant from school.

They are already stigmatized and traumatized by their involvement with the law enforcement and court systems. They should not be stigmatized further by removal from their home school and friends into an alternative school placement unless they are unable to function in a regular school setting.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair

Se. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

OPPOSE SB 1235 - ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that more than 1,600, and soon to be rising number of Hawai'i individuals who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 1235 appropriates funds to the department of education for the development of an alternative school program that provides ongoing education to juveniles involved in the justice system, and other youth.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in **OPPOSITION** to this measure.

While mainstreaming students is happening, the prosecutor is proposing to do the opposite. We have spoken to teachers, social scientists, psychologists and people in the community and everyone agrees: THIS IS A BAD IDEA.

The House Human Services Committee deferred the bill since the Department of Education said that it was not necessary, they could do this already.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committee to hold this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.