

DAVID HIPP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Phone: (808) 587-5700 Fax: (808) 587-5734

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES 707 Richards Street, Suite 525 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 19, 2015

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 979, SD2 – Relating to Youth

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2015 State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of SB 979, SD 2 is to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program which will coordinate a network of safe places where youth can safely access and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It establishes rules that will allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program. The bill also establishes and funds position for youth program coordinator.

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS strongly supports SB 979, SD2 – Relating to Youth, providing for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth. OYS currently procures programs and services across the state to assist youth and their families in navigating through the system in order to engage in needed services through outreach and advocacy. In addition, the OYS funds 24-hour short term residential emergency shelters for youth in crisis. SB 979, SD 2 would expand our current efforts in ensuring a coordinated continuum of services for youth. Therefore, this bill is one of the Keiki Caucus' priorities.

The fiscal implications of this bill are contingent on the funding allocated by Legislature. The approximate costs associated with this statewide safeplaces project are based on OYS' current outreach and advocacy and emergency shelter initiative :

• Year 1 = \$53,364, Planning and Development

The Honorable Dee Morikawa Committee on Human Services March 19, 2015 Page 2

- Year 2 = \$158,414, Implementation Oahu
- Year 3 = \$174,864, Expansion to Hawaii Island
- Year 4 = \$186,614, Expansion to Maui and Kauai
- Year 5 = \$195,714, Statewide implementation to include travel and training TOTAL = \$768,714 for the 5 years

Prevention is a critical component in the juvenile justice continuum of services, and this safe place project, by providing youth access to help, advice and guidance before their problems escalate into possible delinquent behaviors, will serve such a purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



#### PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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#### FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW Executive Director, PHOCUSED

#### HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329

#### Testimony in Support of SB979 SD2, Relating to Youth

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of **SB979 SD2**, which would establish a Safe Places for Youth pilot program. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including youth.

Half of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for status offences, such as running away, truancy from school, or curfew violations. Without appropriate interventions or a safe plan to turn in times of crisis, many runaway youth find themselves at serious risk of homelessness.

HB395 will establish a network of safe places where youth in crisis can request help, and access the necessary supports and services they need to address their concerns and prevent involvement with the criminal justice system.

A safe places for youth program has great potential to prevent and address youth homelessness in Hawaii. In addition, the proposed Safe Places for Youth program is truly a collaborative community effort, which involves service providers, local businesses, as well as local law enforcement.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support of this bill and appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to this issue.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199 Web site: <u>http://www.hysn.org</u> E-mail: <u>info@hysn.org</u>

March 13, 2015

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair And members of the Committee on Human Services

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 979 SD2 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youthserving organizations, strongly supports SB 979 SD1 Relating to Youth.

The proposed network of safe places for youth was first conceived by the young people who attended the October 2012 Children and Youth Summit at the Capitol. It was voted the top priority for legislative action in both 2012, 2013, and 2014 indicating its importance to Hawaii's youth.

Senator Chun Oakland then established the Safe Places for Youth Work Group that has met regularly to build the concept into a viable plan that addresses such issues as training, outreach, coordination, criminal background checks, and right to consent for services. More than 120 individuals and organizations have been involved in planning the Safe Place Network.

It takes an ohana to raise a child and the Safe Places Network will expand our children's `ohana through caring neighbors in our communities.

The Safe Place Network will link together many existing resources for youth and families, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs, Family Centers and Neighborhood places. It will provide safe environments where adolescents can safely address such issues as peer pressure, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and substance abuse. It will provide young people with ways to deal with problems before they get into trouble and avoid unnecessary arrests for status offenses.

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

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Daryl Selman, President

Aloha House

Hale Kipa, Inc. Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc. Hawaii Behavioral Health Hawaii Student Television Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Family Support Hawaii

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 Srvs. Salvation Army Family Treatment Srvs. Sex Abuse Treatment Center Susannah Wesley Community Center The Catalyst Group The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center Women Helping Women

YWCA of Kauai

While much of the network is already in place, funding is needed to ensure 24-hour crisis response capability, provide training of youth workers, and ensure coordination of services among the various providers.

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation, notify parents, and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

After the immediate crisis response, youth-serving agencies will help families resolve the issues that led the youth to seek help from a Safe Place site.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Justito F. Clark

Judith F. Clark, MPH Executive Director

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, March 14, 2015 2:49 PM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	tjdavies@juno.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM
Categories:	duplicate

<u>SB979</u>

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
T.J. Davies	Kokua Council & AARP 60	Support	No

Comments: STROBGLY SUPPORT SB 979. Mahalo & Aloha

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.



Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

To:	Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time:	Thursday, March 19, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
Place:	Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Re:	Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 979, SD2

Dear Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii ("PPHI") writes in support of S.B. 979, SD2, which seeks to create a "safe places for youth" pilot program. PPHI is dedicated to providing Hawaii's people with high quality, affordable and confidential sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy and to that end we support the safe places for youth program because it will have a positive impact on the health of our young people.

A safe places for youth program offers youth easily accessible, safe, and confidential environments where they can deal with issues like peer pressure, unintended pregnancy, child abuse and neglect and substance abuse. Safe places will afford young people the opportunity to obtain the best information and tools that they need to make healthy and responsible decisions about their life, health, and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 979.

Sincerely, Laurie Field Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations

> HONOLULU 1350 S. King Street, Suite 310 Honolulu, HI 96814 808-589-1149

KAUAI 357 Rice Street, Suite 101 Lihue, HI 96766 808-482-2756 KONA Hualalai Medical Center 75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205 Kailua Kona, HI 96740 808-329-8211 MAUI Kahului Office Center 140 Ho`ohana Street, Suite 303 Kahului, HI 96732 808-871-1176



Providing the people of Hawaii with exceptional sexual and reproductive health care and education, through fearless advocacy and compassionate, affordable services, since 1966.

#### TESTIMONY ON SB 979, SD 1 RELATING TO YOUTH BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 19, 2015

9:00 am

Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Senate 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 <u>support of SB 979, SD 2 Relating to</u> <u>Youth</u>, 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, 2013, and 2014 Children & Youth Summits sponsored by the Legislative Keiki Caucus. After the 2012 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 resources to children and youth. Of major importance to working group members was the concern expressed 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, 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 979, SD 2 Relating to Youth. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify afternoon.



TO: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair Committee on Human Services

- HEARING: Thursday, March 19 2015 9:00 AM Conference Room 329
- FROM: Judith Wilhoite Family Advocate Family Programs Hawaii, It Takes An `Ohana Program

RE: SB 979 - RELATING TO YOUTH

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's It Takes An `Ohana (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver, formerly referred to as foster parent. I, along with my Advisory Committee, strongly support SB 979.

In my position, I have regular contact with current and former foster youth. I have had youth call to ask for help when trying to find a safe harbor when running from a living situation that is not working for them. I have had little resources to offer them. If this bill were to pass, I would be able to direct them to a Safe Place where they are able to sign themselves in, without their parents' permission, to receive support. This allows youth to stay safe while the issues in the youth's life are sorted out.

I thank both the Legislature and all those who have worked on this issue for youth for this opportunity to share strong support for SB 979.



# Family Support Hawaiʻi

To support families and communities in providing love and care for our children. March 13, 2015

To: Committee on Human Services and Housing Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

RE: SB 979 Relating to Youth --- IN SUPPORT

Support SB 979 Relating to Youth – Safe Places

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Green and Committee Members:

Family Support Hawaii, an agency serving infants, toddlers, youth and families on the Big Island of Hawaii, supports SB 979 Relating to Youth – Safe Places.

This initiative has been proved successful in many other states and Hawaii youth would benefit from this program. These safe places – schools, fire stations, etc allow access to a safe place for youth in crisis.

This is an opportunity for our community to assist young people by providing safe environments and access to a 24 hour telephone number to call.

Family Support Hawaii would be willing to assist in this project with other agencies to provide services for our youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ray Wofford

**Executive Director** 



75-127 Lunapule Road, Suite 11, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-2119 | Phone: (808) 326-7778 | Fax: (808) 326-4063 Visit: www.familysupporthawaii.org | Email: info@familysupporthawaii.org

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Neighbor Island Board Liaison

Hale Kipa 615 Pi'ikoi Street, Suite 203 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-3139 F 808 589-2610

T 808 589-1829 E info@halekipa.org



March 18, 2015



To: Committee on Human Services Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Re: SB 979, SD2 Relating to Youth----IN SUPPORT

Support SB 979 Relating to Youth-Safe Places

Dear Representatives Morikawa and Kobayashi and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow Hale Kipa to provide testimony in support of this bill. This initiative arose from identified concerns from youth and it allows for existing youth serving agencies as well as community members and establishments to come together to create a real and critical response system for youth needing some direction.

It is a responsible initiative that has proven successful in other States and Hawaii would have the guidance of the National Safe Place in its implementation of the program. The Office of Youth Services has the capability to oversee its development and implementation.

Having the community become more involved in responding to young people and helping them access the information and resources they need is refreshing and exciting.

Please consider passage of this bill. Hale Kipa would be willing to partner with all interested agencies in providing services for the youth.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW Deputy CEO Hale Kipa, Inc.

SB 979 SD2 3-19=15 9:00AM Rm 329 HUS

Chair Morikawa and members of the Human Services Committee:

I am Marcia Linville, testifying for the Education Caucus of the Democratic Party in support of SB979 SD2.

I was very interested to see that you had included libraries among the safe places listed. I have been a Children's Librarian for over 30 years and during that time I have seen many children seeking refuge in their local library from bullying peers, trouble at home or school, or simply a feeling that they don't fit in any place. Some of these children are gifted or talented and need the reassurance that comes from a secure place where they can read, write, draw or work on a problem that draws them into creative thinking or problem solving. Some of them are children who have been hurt and need a safe place to recover. Ocasionally they are children who have run away from an intolerable situation at home or school and need a breathing space. Some of them are bored and looking for something new. I would much rather these kids read a book. watched a DVD, listened to music, explored a computer or discovered a graphic novel than some of your listed alternatives. Granted, that's a lot less dramatic or heartcatching than some of the cases you cite. But there should be space for a kid who is just starting to hurt as well as one who is hitting desperation. It is always easier to solve a problem when it's small.

This would also give staff a place and a way to contact those who can help these children, instead of showing them the door at closing time. That's worth a lot.

Thank You

Marcia Linville

TESTIMONY to House Committee on Health

SB 979 Relating to Health

Thursday, March 19, 2015

# 9:00 AM - State Capitol Conference Room 329

Submitted in OPPOSITION by: Susan Duffy, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Chair Morikawa; Vice Chair Kobayashi

Dear Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am strongly opposed to SB 979. The bill has too many problems. It says that Hawaii is one of the safest and healthiest places for youth. If this is so, why the need for "safe spaces?"

When it comes to "safe zones" or "safe spaces" I think the issue is whether or not the state should be involved in managing or designating these at all. While on the surface this all may sound very nice, this bill is problematic for several reasons.

First, I do not believe it is in the best interest of the state to get involved in the business of micromanaging our neighborhood communities and schools. Parents, schools and community-based organizations already exist to address the issue of safety. One example is the Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Under Served, Elderly and Disabled (PHOCUSED) organization. This statewide coalition of health, housing and human services organizations already exists to help children. There are also the YMCA/YWCA's and family centers in various neighborhoods. It is these people and these existing organizations that are the ones most capable of developing policies based on the specific needs of their own particular community. In my own neighborhood of Ewa Beach for example, I can think of a number of "safe" places for children (e.g., the Boys and Girls Club, the Salvation Army's KROC Center, the after school programs, the various churches, etc.). The point is, we have things in place. If they are not "safe spaces" then they should be shut down. If they are not safe and receive government funding, withdraw all monies and close them.

Secondly, where is all the data that would support such a measure? If things are really so bad, where are all the class action suits, civil rights violations, or criminal complaints that have been filed against perpetrators that would warrants such legislative action? What is the real purpose of "safe zones" and for whom are they really intended to be safe for?

The bill may seem well intentioned but I do not think that is enough of a reason to pass it given that there are already shelters and existing programs that are available

for youth. The state cannot afford to create unnecessary redundancy.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, March 13, 2015 10:39 AM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	tasymons56@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM

#### <u>SB979</u>

Submitted on: 3/13/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo!

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.

Aloha Representatives;

I oppose SB 979 SD2.

The bill states that service providers at these "safe places" may counsel and give services to youth without parent's consent provided:

(1) The service provider has not, despite reasonable efforts, been able to contact the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian of the youth in crisis;

(2) The service provider has made contact with the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian of the youth in crisis; the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian has refused to give consent; and, based on the information available to the service provider, the service provider reasonably believes that the youth in crisis would incur harm or would be subject to threatened harm if the youth in crisis returned immediately to the home of the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian; or

(3) The youth in crisis has refused to provide contact information for the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian of the youth in crisis, and the service provider reasonably believes that the youth in crisis would incur harm or would be subject to threatened harm if the youth in crisis returned immediately to the home of the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian.

I believe that none of the reasons stated above qualifies to override a parent's consent, care and authority. No provider should be allowed to counsel or give services to a youth on potential life altering decisions such as drug abuse, suicide, or pregnancy without a parent's consent simply because they have not been able to get in touch with them or the teen refuses to give them contact information. Many teens may not want their parents' involvement although that is precisely what they need most. Also, if a parent says "no", then the answer is no!. Who better to help youth make the best decisions than those who know them best? It is quite misguided to think that some service provider at a "safe house" who sees a teen a few hours a week would know their needs or care about them more than their parents.

I know there is a population of teens whose parents' may not respond correctly, but that is small compared to the general public which you will be denying the right to best parent their children.

There are already programs that offer safety if the child in crisis "would incur harm or would be subject to threatened harm if the youth in crisis returned immediately to the home of the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian," namely CPS. If the youth is in this kind of potential harm, authorities should be notified, and procedures followed as those done in the schools.

Please, do not further undermine the care and authority of parents over their children, their youth.

Oppose SB 979 SD2.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Lisa Poulos

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:57 PM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	bkulbis@reagan.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM
Categories:	duplicate

#### SB979

Submitted on: 3/17/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill because it makes no sense to have a special "safe places" for students in crisis. All schools should be safe places for Hawaii's keiki. It starts with the school faculty being empowered to take appropriate action, while not undermining parental rights. There must be a partnership between parents and teachers in the education of students. Policies and righteous laws that strengthen families and provide resources for parents are urgently and vitally necessary. This is to make sure that our ordained role as the primary educators and trainers of our children are well nourished and protected. There are many problems, the biggest is that this bill gives the service provider who has no oversight by either the DOE/BOE or DHS too much power.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Sunday, March 15, 2015 2:46 PM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	cgoshiro@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM
Categories:	duplicate

#### SB979

Submitted on: 3/15/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing	
C. Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	No	

Comments: NO, NO, NO! We STRONGLY OBJECT to this bill!! Please DO NOT take away our freedom to teach our children more healthy ways of abstinence. This bill is totally WRONG and it is the responsibility of parents to teach in our own way & beliefs!

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:31 AM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	phil4.eight@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM
Categories:	duplicate

Categories:

#### **SB979**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing	
Roxanne Jim	Individual	Oppose	No	

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to communicate strong opposition of bill SB979 SD1. As a mother of a teenager, I am concerned that this bill takes away parental rights, since the child may access services without parental consent. What if the child is "acting up and behaving badly" this program may be used to further bad behavior and evade or avoid corrective guidance. It will be another program where predators will be a concern. Agencies and programs exist to address concerns of abuse, making this program un necessary and duplicative. Let's steward what little money the state has and maximize the use of existing programs. If these programs need improvement, put the money there.

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.

- TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair Members, House Committee on Human Services Members
- FROM: Eunice Tubera (808) 368-7437

HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2015, 9:00am, in Conference Rm. 329

Testimony in Support of SB979 SD2, Relating to Youth

I am Eunice Tubera a graduate student, currently attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Social Work.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 979 SD2, which proposes to provide services for the needs of youth by establishing a *Safe Place* program.

As a student I have interned for various agencies directly involved with at-risk youths and/or the juvenile justice system. During my time as an intern, I have encountered first-hand experience of the struggles youths are engaged in. I have observed that some of their hardships include substance abuse, family conflict and/or education achievement.

Youths experience a variance of circumstances and may have difficulty in navigating through those issues and finding some kind of resolution. The intent of SB979 has the possibility to help guide a youth in the right direction, and provide services that may change the trajectory of a youth's and family life for the better.

Thank you for your consideration in support of this bill and giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SB979.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:32 PM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	kjtagon19@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM
Categories:	duplicate

Categories:

#### **SB979**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Judy Taggerty-Onaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Taking authority away from parents is wrong. Many times kids are angry with parents for not getting their way, or just being kids. Parents are responsible for their children until they are 18yrs of age. At one pubic school on the Big Island some type of school worker took underage teen girls to Planned Parenthood for Birth control and Abortions with our their parents knowledge or permission. This should never happen. Please don't open the doors to this dangerous practice. Mahalo.

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:28 PM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM*

#### <u>SB979</u>

Submitted on: 3/18/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:53 PM
To:	HUStestimony
Cc:	fernmossman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB979 on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM*

#### <u>SB979</u>

Submitted on: 3/18/2015 Testimony for HUS on Mar 19, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Fern Mossman	Individual	Oppose	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.