

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 23, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SB 869 SD2](#) - RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION.

Hearing: March 24, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the measure's intent and defers to the Hawaii Youth Commission and the Office of Youth Services.

PURPOSE: This bill clarifies that a majority of the members appointed to the Youth Commission shall constitute a quorum to do business. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

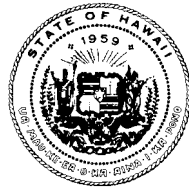
The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have allowed the Youth Commission to appoint its own Executive Director; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

The SD2 amended the measure with additional technical amendments.

The Department supports the mission of the Youth Commission, which is to advise the governor and Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State per section 352D-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Revising the quorum will assist the Youth Commission's ability to make decisions and progress in its work.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 22, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **SB 869 SD2 – RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION**
Hearing: March 24, 2023, 2 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill, with SD2 amendments, is to amend the number of commissioners needed to make quorum to do business.

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) oversees the Hawaii State Youth Commission (HiYC) and strongly supports the Youth Commission's mission and its ability to provide strong youth voice in advising the governor and effecting legislative policies as they relate to youth issues in the State. Over the past year, the Youth Commission has struggled with membership and has often not had the ability to establish quorum and conduct official business. The OYS supports the expansion of the definition of quorum.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



Chair David Tarnas
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, March 24, 2023
2:00PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB869 SD2 RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, "to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State." The Hawai'i State Youth Commission (HiYC) is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB869 SD2**, Relating to the Youth Commission.

HiYC strongly supports amending section 352D-11, subsection (f) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to change the quorum requirements from eight to a *majority* of commission members in order to do business. This is because, in the past, the HiYC has seen some difficulty maintaining the quorum needed to conduct our mission and purpose. **Amending the definition of quorum to a majority of appointed members will enable the Hawai'i State Youth Commission to more easily fulfill its missions and tasks.**

There have been unforeseen conflicts and events, such as staggered start and end times for the terms of individual commissioners, which affects our ability to fill vacancies. This will be especially important in the coming months as several of the current commissioners will be ending their current terms (giving eligible commissioners the ability to go through the reappointment process again). Please **PASS Senate Bill 869 Senate Draft 2** out of your committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission
hawaiistateyc@gmail.com



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

- Bay Clinic*
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i*
- Big Island Substance Abuse
Council*
- Bobby Benson Center*
- Child and Family Service*
- Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i*
- Collins Consulting, LLC*
- Domestic Violence Action Center*
- EPIC `Ohana, Inc.*
- Family Programs Hawai`i*
- Family Support Hawai`i*
- Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui*
- Get Ready Hawai`i*
- Hale Kipa, Inc.*
- Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.*
- Hawai`i Children's Action
Network*
- Hawai`i Health & Harm
Reduction Center*
- Ho`ola Na Pua*
- Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i*
- Ka Hale Pomaika`i*
- Kahi Mohala*
- Kokua Kalihi Valley*
- Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance*
- Maui Youth and Family Services*
- Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems*
- P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.*
- Parents and Children Together*
- PHOCUSED*
- PFLAG – Kona, Big Island*
- Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*
- Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)*
- Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services*
- Sex Abuse Treatment Center*
- Susannah Wesley Community
Center*
- The Catalyst Group*

March 23, 2023

To Representative David Tarnas, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 869 SD 2 RELATING TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) supports SB 869 SD 2 Relating to the Youth Commission.

Allowing quorum based on the number of appointed members instead of number allowed by statute will make it easier for the Commission to conduct business and meet its goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-869-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 3:27:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoey Duan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Hello, I'm Zoey Duan, a Youth Commissioner on the Hawaii State Youth Commission. I am in support of SB 869, SD2, Relating To the Youth Commission.

I support amending the quorum requirement to a majority of the members rather than eight members. This would greatly increase our flexibility in performing and accomplishing various tasks that are time-sensitive and of priority while also accounting for extenuating circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Zoey Duan

Aloha, my name is Eric Pomaika'i Gee, and I am a junior at Kealakehe High School.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB869. I am fortunate to have been selected as one of the new commissioners this year. As I began attending sessions, it was clear that some restraints were halting productivity. In this case, the eight-member quorum regulation is nearly impossible to meet. Before I was voted in, there were only eight commission members, which meant all members needed to be present to vote in the new class of commissioners. We quickly discovered that the eight-member rule is only adequate when there are 15 commissioners. With the fluctuation in the commissioners, changing to a majority vote is a better fit for our current situation.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony!

Mahalo,

Eric Pomaika'i Gee, CMfgA
Hawaii State Youth Commission
Kealakehe HS '24
Vice-Chair | SCC
KHS Head Ambassador
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