



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

February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 456 – RELATING TO YOUTH
Hearing: February 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of this measure, provides comments and suggests amendments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a grant program within the Office of Youth Services giving priority to programs that support youth who are disproportionately represented in the justice system. Appropriates funds.

The Office of Youth Services supports additional resources that addresses the needs of disproportionately represented youth in the justice system, however, is unaware of an avenue for which allows for the OYS to distribute funds within a grant program model. As a state agency, the OYS is compelled to comply with procurement rules in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules [HAR §3-141-101](#) to ensure fair and equal competition for use of state funds.

The OYS suggests that the Legislature issue grants in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 42F, Grants, to specific community-based organizations providing services to the specific populations this measure is focused on serving. As with previous Grant in Aid (GIA) awards, the OYS is willing to provide contract management for the grants awarded.

Alternatively, the legislature may consider supporting [HB438](#) RELATING TO YOUTH PROGRAMS. This measure has a similar purpose in providing additional coordination of services and resources to disproportionately represented youth in the justice system. This measure appropriates funds to the OYS for program services and one FTE position.

The OYS appreciates any appropriation for additional program funds to support youth services. Upon the appropriation of funds, OYS will need time to develop and implement administrative rules to implement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 456, RELATING TO YOUTH.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2023 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Margaret A. Leong, Melissa J. Kolonie, or James W. Walther,
Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish within the Office of Youth Services, Department of Human Services (OYS), a program to administer grant funding to programs and entities that support youth from ethnic groups that are disproportionately represented in the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility or in the State of Hawaii's correctional system, address the negative effects of adverse childhood experiences, support rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration, and identify and prioritize community needs in consultation with programs and entities providing youth services; and (2) appropriate funds for the establishment of the grant program within the OYS.

The bill, on page 5, lines 14-21, provides an appropriation of public money to the OYS for the purpose of providing grants to qualified programs and entities to support youth from ethnic groups disproportionately represented in Hawai'i's correctional system. Article VII, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides, "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." This bill does not include standards by which the OYS is to award administrative grants of funds to program participants. We therefore recommend that

this bill be amended to insert sufficient standards for the OYS to distribute the funds appropriated in this bill as grants to youth services providers.

Examples of existing statutes that provide standards for agencies to expend funds are part II of chapter 9 and sections 10-17, 210D-11, and 383-128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which provide standards for the administrative grant of public money. Additionally, we have attached draft standards to this testimony as a sample to work from and we are happy to work with you on developing more specific standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

POSSIBLE STANDARDS FOR THE GRANTS IN THIS BILL

I. DEFINITIONS

Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Department" means the department of human services.

"Grant" means an award of state funds to a specified recipient to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities.

"Office" means the office of youth services.

"Private educational institution" means a non-public entity that provides: (1) educational services for any grades from kindergarten through grade twelve; (2) post-secondary education; or (3) pre-kindergarten level services that are provided by an entity that holds itself out to the public as a school or educational institution, or that are identified by the entity as educational services rather than solely as child care services.

"Recipient" means a program or entity receiving a grant.

II. APPLICATIONS

Applications for grants. Requests for grants shall be submitted to the department in accordance with the administrative rules adopted by the department to administer the grant program. Each request shall at a minimum state:

- (1) The name of the program or entity requesting grant funds;
- (2) The expenses that are necessary for the program or entity to provide the service; and
- (3) The population the program or entity serves.

III. STANDARDS

Qualifying standards for grant funds. A program or entity applying for a grant shall meet the following standards;

specifically, the applicant shall provide proof that the applicant:

- (1) Has United States citizenship or permanent United States resident alien status and is a resident of the State of Hawaii at the time of application;
- (2) Is currently licensed or registered as a program or entity, or is an exempt provider approved by the department;
- (3) Provides the activities or services described at the time of application;
- (4) Complies with other federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, necessary to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
- (5) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
- (6) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities;
- (7) Allows the department, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant;
- (8) Is not part of or owned or operated by or as a private educational institution;
- (9) Satisfies any other standards that may be required by the source of funding; and

- (10) Meets all other standards prescribed in rules adopted by the department to implement the grants.

Requirement for program or entities receiving grant funds.

Each program or entity who, after meeting the qualifications set out in section [__], receives grant funds from the department, is required to continue to provide the activity or services for [specify time period here].

IV. REVIEW OF APPLICATION

Required review of requests for grant funds. (a) Every request for grant funds shall be reviewed in accordance with this section.

(b) Every request for a grant shall be submitted to the department on an application form provided by the department. Each application shall at a minimum contain the information in section [__].

(c) The department shall review each request to determine whether the applicant is eligible to receive grant funds.

(d) The department shall make a final decision on each request.

(e) The department shall inform each grant applicant of the disposition of the application's request.

(f) The appeal process in the department's rules shall be available for any applicant who is denied a request for grant funds.

V. CONTRACTS

Contracts. The department shall not release the public funds approved for a grant unless a contract is entered into between the department and the recipient of the grant. The department shall develop and determine, in consultation with and subject to the review and approval of the attorney general, the specific contract form to be used.

VI. ALLOTMENT

Allotment. Appropriations for grants to be made under this Act shall be subject to the allotment system generally applicable to all appropriations made by the legislature.

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation. (a) Every department grant contract shall be monitored by the department to ensure compliance with this part.

(b) Every department grant contract shall be evaluated annually to determine whether the grant attained the intended results in the manner contemplated.

VIII. DUTY TO DISCLOSE AND PENALTY


Continued eligibility. Any recipient of a grant who withholds or omits any material fact or deliberately misrepresents facts to the department shall be in violation of this part. In addition to any other penalties provided by law, any recipient found by the department to have violated this part or the terms of its contract shall be prohibited from applying for any department grants for a period of five years from the date of termination.



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TESTIMONY

TO: House Committee Members for HUS and FIN
FROM: Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam 
District 6
DATE: February 8, 2023
SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB456

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support for HB 456 that establishes a grant program within the Office of Youth Services and gives priority to programs that support youth from ethnic groups that are disproportionately represented in the State of Hawai'i's correctional system.

Grants like this could help to support groups like Kalihi Community Center (KCC), which was established on January 1, 2014, is 300 hundred members strong, and has helped over 700 households in culturally diverse communities. KKC unites community leaders and individuals to support and inspire families that are in need, and provides programs and services to children, young adults, and our beloved kūpuna, guiding them all to locate resources to find solutions to life's many challenges.

KCC also offers free programs that help families that are financially struggling to enroll their children into these programs that they would not otherwise be able to participate in. Thank you so much for your thoughtful and heartfelt consideration in providing grants and helping wonderful programs like KCC that do so much for our community.



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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 Hawaii

*Big Island Substance Abuse
Council*

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice

Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action

Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Ho'okele Coalition of Kaua'i

Ka Hale Pomaika'i

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalih 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

February 7, 2023

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 456 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 456 Relating to Youth.

Increasing funding for positive youth development programs that are culturally relevant and evidence-informed will increase the likelihood that Hawaii's youth will make successful transitions to adulthood.

Evidence shows that investment in health, education, human services, and recreation programs for adolescents decreases risky behaviors such as substance abuse and juvenile crime. They increase educational achievement and civic engagement. They reduce the likelihood of involvement in juvenile and adult justice systems and reliance on public assistance. Funding to support vulnerable youth at this critical time in their development can prevent a lifetime of future costs to society.

HYSN applauds the plan to award multi-year or renewable grants for up to five years. This provides stable funding that allows recipients to plan for and measure longer-term outcomes and provides program stability.

Hawaii Youth Services Network would note, however, that the Office of Youth Services normally provides contracts rather than grants to non-profit organizations that provide prevention and intervention services. Establishing a new grant-based system for funding will require time and resources for the Office of Youth Services.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



HOUSE BILL 456
RELATING TO YOUTH
Thursday, February 9, 2023, 9:00am
Conference Room 329

Goodmorning Rep Mizuno, Rep Belati and Committee

The Kalihi Community Center is

In Strong Support of HB456

I am honored to appear before you today to provide testimony in support of a measure that will greatly benefit the Kalihi Community Center and the families we serve. The Kalihi Community Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in January 2014 with a mission to unite community leaders and individuals to support and inspire families in need.

Our programs are designed to serve low-income families, at-risk youth, and members of different island-based communities. We offer a range of free programs including athletic programs, a learning center, yoga, hula, and dance classes. To date, we have served over 700 families and have positively impacted thousands more through our efforts.

The diversity of our membership, which includes Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, speaks to our commitment to serving the Kalihi community. At-risk youth, particularly those residing in public housing or low-income neighborhoods, are at the heart of our mission. Our programs aim to provide a support system and safe haven, helping to prevent negative outcomes and promoting positive change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our ability to provide services and meet the increasing demand for our programs. The funding provided by this measure will greatly assist us in continuing our mission and serving the community.

In conclusion, I would like to express my strong support for this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Kalihi Community Center and the families we serve greatly appreciate your support.

Geraldine Urquidez

Regarding Support for HB456 – RELATING TO YOUTH - Office of Youth Services; Grant Program; Appropriations

February 5, 2023

My name is Geraldine Emi Urquidez, and I am a concerned Maui resident. I am testifying on bill HB456 which supports appropriating funds to the Office of Youth Services Programs. This Act aims to increase the funding for youth programs that help decrease the overrepresentation of people of color in Hawai'i's criminal justice system. This bill would help address many of these adverse effects of at-risk youth and support rehabilitation vs. incarceration for youth that falls into the criminal justice system.

The adolescent development phase is already filled with many challenges with rapid changes in the mind and body. Throw in the additional challenges such as growing up in poverty, in an underserved community, experiencing intergenerational trauma, and cultural dislocation, and the life risk factors rise immensely. These youth are at higher risk of death, health issues, suicide, substance abuse, and incarceration. Negative behaviors increase when there are risk factors involved. However, the more protective factors there are, the less youth engage in risky behaviors.

As a community, we must address academic success and social, emotional, behavioral, health, and physical needs. Furthermore, the pandemic has negatively affected the many available programs. If not addressed with preventive measures, we may be confronted with the consequences in the future.

I have witnessed the need for more services within my own family and as a Crisis Mobile Outreach worker. Times are challenging for youth because of the lack of services for student success and the effects everyone is still dealing with because of the unpredictable atmosphere of the pandemic. These are critical times to get future generations to develop the skills needed to be workforce ready and learn meaningful life and social skills.

Furthermore, extracurricular activities such as sports, afterschool programs, counseling, and mentorships are forms of refuge for many youths and support their emotional needs. I can testify that I know it was for me as I came from a broken home and grew up in an at-risk and

underserved community. Had it not been for youth programs that steered me from continuing to engage in risky activities, I could have been another statistic growing up in the criminal justice system. Therefore, we as a community should provide all we can to make the best experiences for our youth so they can become outstanding citizens and, in return, give back to the community. Our youth's success should be a top priority.

In conclusion, investing in our youth and their well-being is a commitment to the future. Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters and solutions; it is very much appreciated.

Good afternoon,

Thank you chair, legislative council members for allowing me to speak on House Bill 456.

I, Kanela Kamahalohanuilai support House Bill 456.

Since, 2020 with the closure of public extra circular activities state wide, it seems that our youth are getting bored, from experience we should know what boredom can lead to. I'll let your minds wonder on the scenarios to which boredom can contribute to.

For the purpose of this bill, it seems that boredom can lead to illegal activities in the communities around our state causing our youth to end up incarcerated. Also causing unsafe communities for residents, elderly, and agencies that resides in that community.

Youth should not grow up in prisons or jails. They should grow up in a healthy family lifestyle. This is not the case for a lot of youth in Hawaii.

Since, they get themselves for whatever means into the juvenile system let's help them transition out of the juvenile system, by providing them with alternative programs.

Providing grants to program and entities that focus on youth incarceration. With the funding programs can provide hands on learning, personal growth, and community and cultural connection. These programs can teach our youth how to care for the communities that they may once hurt before.

Supporting programs can also provide a safe, growing environment, and at times a family that many youths lacks in their lives.

Legislature of Hawaii should provide grant opportunity to programs and entities at-risk youth to provide alternative, supportive rehabilitation, and to meet communities needs to help our vulnerable youths in Hawaii.

Thank you.

HB-456

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:27:26 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/9/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Indy Rishi Singh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this and also provide the grant money to seasoned educators who have been struggling