



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

February 27, 2015

TO: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 979, SD1 (SSCR125) – Relating to Youth

Hearing: Monday, March 2, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of SB 979, SD1 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, SD1 – Relating to Youth, providing for a coordinated network of programs and services for youth, but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget.

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 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
- Year 2 = \$158,414, Implementation – Oahu

**The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Committee on Human Services and Housing**

**February 3, 2015**

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- 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.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Daryl Selman, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
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  
The Catalyst Group  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Kauai

February 27, 2015

To: Senator Jill Tokuda  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 979 SD1 RELATING TO YOUTH**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving 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.



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.

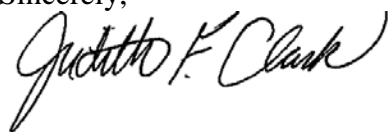
The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



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FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Monday, March 02, 2015  
9:00 AM  
Conference Room 211

FROM: Judith Wilhoite  
Family Advocate  
Family Programs Hawai'i

RE: SB979 – 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 safe for them because of some type of abuse – be it physical, physiological or sexual abuse. Often I have 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 receive support. This allows youth to stay safe while the issues in the youth's life are sorted out, thus preventing bigger, perhaps costlier problems.

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



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

The Hon. Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill 979 SD 1**

**Relating to Youth**

**Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director**

**February 27, 2015, 9:00 am, Room 211**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports Senate Bill 979, requiring the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services, establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator, establishes rules to allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program and provide immunity from liability to safe place providers and other related service providers, and provides funding for this program.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as home life, income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, and housing environments can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes. The safe places for youth pilot program could provide a resource to address some of these influences and mitigate or prevent negative effects on youth and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

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TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW  
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Monday, March 2, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211**

**Testimony in Support of SB979 SD1, Relating to Youth**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB979 SD1**, 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.

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 979, SD1

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (“PPHI”) writes in support of S.B. 979, SD1, 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  
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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



**SB979**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenneth Ordenstein	Olomea Inc.	Support	No

Comments: We support SB 979 that establishes a network of safe places where youth can access safety and obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. It increases the level of protection for our children. It can make a positive, life changing difference for a child and for the community that supports that child. My name is Kenneth Ordenstein. I am executive director of Olomea, a non profit formed to provide all young people, particularly Native Hawaiians, leaving foster care the chance to become self sufficient, successful adults.

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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**SB979**

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure to help youth at an earlier stage of need. The needs of youth need to be addressed earlier, and a safe place would help us to intervene with their and their family needs earlier, preventing a higher level of care later.

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**SB979**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB979**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha Senators;

I oppose SB 979 SD1.

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. 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 SD1.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Lisa Poulos

**SB979**

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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