

HB 1987 HD 1

Measure Title: RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS.

Report Title: Youth Gangs; Appropriation (\$)

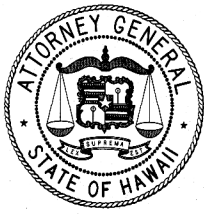
Description: Appropriates funds for the development of prevention and intervention services and programs statewide for youth at risk, and to monitor gang activities and establish new gang prevention strategies and projects. (HB1987 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): CACHOLA, MIZUNO, TAKAYAMA, LoPresti



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1987, H.D. 1, RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2016

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Blair Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Chun Oakland and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to appropriate general revenues for fiscal year 2016-2017 to:

(1) the Office of Youth Services to provide and develop prevention and intervention services and programs statewide for youth at risk and (2) to the police departments of the counties of Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai to monitor gang activities and establish new gang prevention strategies and projects.

The appropriation to the county police departments in section 3 of the bill is problematic, and we recommend that section 3 be clarified. Section 3 of the bill on page 3, lines 5-13, would appropriate one aggregate, unspecified amount of general funds to the four counties' police departments. Because section 3 does not distribute a separate amount of the appropriation to each county, the funds likely cannot be expended. If section 3 were to pass as currently worded, there would be no way to divide the aggregate appropriation among the four counties. To clarify section 3, we recommend that a separate amount be distributed to each county police department. Section 3 of the bill could be worded as follows:

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to monitor gang activities and establish new gang prevention strategies and projects statewide and to be distributed as follows:

(1) County of Hawaii, police department \$

Testimony of the Department of the Attorney General

Twenty-Eighth Legislature, 2016

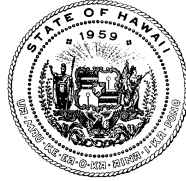
Page 2 of 2

- (2) County of Kauai, police department \$
- (3) County of Maui, police department \$
- (4) City and County of Honolulu, police department \$

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the police departments of the respective counties for the purposes of this Act.

We respectfully ask the Committees to pass this bill with the recommended amendments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1878
Relating to Aging

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN-OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATOR GIL RIVIERE, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Testimony of Terri Byers
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: MARCH 17, 2016
1:35PM

Room Number: CONF. ROOM 016

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
3 within the Administration's supplemental budget request.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates funds for FY16 for the following:

- 5 1. The Kupuna Care Program and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC);
- 6 2. Fall Prevention and Early Detection services coordinator position;
- 7 3. Healthy Aging Partnership;
- 8 4. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) services coordinator; and
- 9 5. ADRD Public Awareness Campaign.

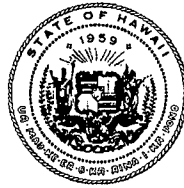
1 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that two of the appropriations in this bill are priorities of
2 the Ige Administration. These priorities include (1) \$1,700,000 for the continued development of
3 the ADRCs statewide, and (2) a \$4,145,695 million increase in EOA’s base budget for Kupuna
4 Care.

5 Regarding the funding for the Fall Prevention and Early Detection services coordinator
6 position, the Healthy Aging Partnership, the Alzheimer’s’ Disease and Related Dementia
7 (ADRD) services coordinator, and the ADRD Public Awareness Campaign, these items are not
8 part of the Governor’s budget request. Should there be a surplus of funds available for these
9 measures, we would be supportive as we agree with the concept of this initiative as it is
10 consistent with EOA’s goals and objectives. If the Legislature deems these programs necessary,
11 EOA respectfully requests that the Legislature provide the appropriate resources, rather than
12 supplant existing resources, for this proposal.

13 **Recommendations:** EOA respectfully requests your consideration of the following
14 recommendation:

- 15 1. PART II, Section 3 (page 2). Verbiage request on line 7 to strike out “navigational tool”
16 and replace with a “person centered process” to read, “The legislature further finds that
17 the State’s Aging and Disability Resource Center is a person centered process intended to
18 navigate and streamline access to long term services and supports for older adults,
19 individuals with disabilities, and family caregivers.”

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

March 16, 2016

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1987 HD1 - Relating to Youth Gangs

Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports the intent of the measure but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget. OYS agrees that many factors can contribute toward an apparent increase in graffiti, violence, substance abuse and criminal activities. Risk factors such as poverty, higher concentrations of immigration, lack of parental guidance and supervision, and social disorganization in the community can negatively impact a community and its ability to respond to an apparent youth gang problem. Careful analysis of the extent and depth of the type of criminal activity, and apparent symptoms of underlying social and economic dynamics is required prior to committing valuable resources toward any initiative related to our State's at-risk and troubled youth.

OYS supports a coordinated and multi-agency approach to strengthen and improve a community's response in addressing problems affecting a community such as youth violence. Currently, prevention and intervention efforts are underway through ongoing partnerships with various resources such as the police, Department of Education, Judiciary, community-based agencies, and the University of Hawaii, to address problems such as increased criminal activities that may be more related to ethnic and geographic concerns rather than a strict definition of gang activity.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
March 16, 2016
Page 2 of 2

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds for a coordinated gang response system to include the county police departments, and the Office of Youth Services

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



TO: Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: March 17, 2016; 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1987, HD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS

We support the intent of HB 1987, HD1 – Relating to Youth Gangs. Gang membership in Hawaii continues to increase by the numbers, with a report in 2010 stating 129 street gangs involving 500 members across the state of Hawaii. Youth gangs have become an issue we have grown to tolerate in our culture. For troubled teens, it is a battle between peer-pressure, low self-esteem, and the unfortunate violence they have grown up witnessing. Our negligence to youth gangs would be failure to claim our duty in providing safe environments and promising futures for our keiki.

It is of crucial importance that we invest in organizations and programs that dedicate their services to bringing back the hope of a child's innocence. Parents And Children Together is just one of the many organizations who offer prevention and intervention programs to ensure healthy environments for children and families in Hawaii. It takes more than just resources alone to carry out success in this work, but the continuous support of community members and leaders who become role models for these high risk youth.

The positions of HB 1987 will provide solid foundations in helping youth recognize their potential in life. No longer shall their environments create their destinies for them, and limit their capabilities of what they could achieve. It is essential that every single one of our keiki are given the chance to appreciate their youth, and know how to stand for what they believe in. We support the passing of this bill.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 1987, HD1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

01:15 P.M.; Conference Room 016

By: Dennis Arakaki for the Kalihi Community Youth Violence and Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Group Member of the Keiki Caucus Support Group.

Aloha Mai Keia auinala kakou, Chairs Senator Chun Oakland and Senator Nishihara and Vice Chairs Senator Riviere and Senator Will Espero and members of the Committees on Human Services, Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs. I am here to offer my strong support of HB 1987, HD1.

As the volunteer convenor of the Kalihi-Palama Community Youth Violence and Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Group, I want to relay our concerns for the growing incidences of youth violence in our communities and neighborhoods. We have seen and heard reports about a proliferation of violence on school campuses, parks, housing complex', fast food establishments and almost all public places that youth gather. (I know chair Chun Oakland that you are well aware of these occurrences) These fights, that some refer to as gang fights, occur quickly as young people use the latest communication devices to spread the word which allow them to gather and disperse very quickly.

Kalihi-Palama is a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities where many young immigrants and families get their start. The socio-economic factors that are woven throughout the community lead many young people feeling isolated and even excluded from the mainstream cultures as well as academic and economic successes. It's unfortunate but there is de facto segregation by ethnicity and socio-economic factors that are not intentional but create a community of youth faced with alienation caused by lack of opportunity to join the mainstream culture. Thus, the so called gangs are centered on territorial identities and ethnic similarities as their source of pride.

At the hearing by the House Human Services and Education Committees earlier this session, our coalition recommended that sections be deleted in order to emphasize the importance of the remaining sections and to reduce the appropriations requested. We feel that what is left are basic tools needed to coordinate services and to emphasize the importance of prevention and intervention approaches while giving the enforcement agencies the tools to stay on top of the issue.

Also important are the services provided by the community non-profits that I have also attached an addendum to my testimony which lists programs and services that are vital to prevention and intervention of youth violence, delinquency and gang activity.

While the bill is introduced at the request of the Kalihi Youth Violence and Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Group, the signs of organized youth gang activities are island wide and even state wide. Kalihi is the “canaries in the mine” and the problems that face our community serve as indicators of more ominous problems we face statewide with our youth. We know this because the legislature was able to address the problems with a comprehensive approach of enforcement, intervention and prevention. The gang problem shows indication of rearing its ugly head again and we need to move swiftly to provide the tools needed to prevent widespread violence and crime in our communities. The Task Group members recognize the importance and effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies that provide programs and activities that keep youth out of the judicial system and the costly alternatives of rehabilitation and treatment.

I urge you to pass this measure from your joint committees and with a strong recommendation for referral to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Mahalo kakou!