



Hearing date:
Tuesday,
February 2,
2010, 1:30 p.m.
Senate Human
Services
Committee
Room 016

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Subject: **SB2064:** Authorizes holding public events that celebrate Children and Youth Day to be held on state capitol grounds.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a nonprofit policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop. Good Beginnings Alliance has been actively working as a planning committee member and fiscal agent for Children and Youth Day for the last three years.

We strongly support this bill. Children and Youth Day has been a huge success with almost 40,000 children and family members attending each year. We have had over 300 organizations participating, and the state capitol makes an ideal location to hold this event due to its centrality, parking availability, and access via the bus.

Mahalo for your support. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; lechun@goodbeginnings.org.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Chun
Executive Director

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Judith Clark [jclark@hysn.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 3:03 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Judith Clark
Subject: Testimony SB2064

SB2064 RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Thursday, 2/2/2010; 1:30 p.m.
Room 016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2064 RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, and members of the Committee on Human Services
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Affairs

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2064 Relating to Children and Youth.

The Children and Youth Month activities and events have many benefits to Hawaii's children, youth and families. These include:

- * Opportunities for families to learn about community resources that they may need
- * Education for parents about children development and good parenting practices
- * Promotes healthy lifestyles (e.g., good nutrition, exercise, drug prevention)
- * Opportunities for service learning for youth and volunteer opportunities for adults
- * Encouraging young people to think seriously about what would make Hawaii a better place to live, learn, and work through the Leader for a Day Essay Contest and Children and Youth Summit
- * Education for children and youth about health, environment, and other issues
- * Recognition for people who have dedicated their lives and service to the benefit of children and youth
- * Generates important information for legislators about the concerns of young people and youth advocates

HYSN has been a participant in Children and Youth Month Activities for the past ten years and we strongly support the continuation of this worthwhile program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director
Hawaii Youth Services Network
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 702
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-531-2198



Sen HMS committee
Thurs, Feb 2, 2010
1:30 am
Room 016

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

January 26, 2010

TO: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Senate Human Services Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SB 2064 Relating to Children and Youth Day

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT of SB 2064 Relating to Children and Youth Day.**

In October 2009, we participated in the 16th Annual Children and Youth Day. I remember my daughter participating in the very first Children and Youth Day when she was 5 years old. It was a small event with one tent but it was a wonderful time to enjoy doing child friendly activities. Children and Youth Day is an event that encourages families to come to the State Capitol and participate in free, educational activities with their children. Over the years it has grown and now over 35,000 children, youth and adults are drawn to the Capitol grounds to participate in this day of fun.

In 2009, the state comptroller had concerns about the event being held on the State Capitol grounds because of the "carnival" type atmosphere and it was not the appropriate image for the State Capitol. However, I disagree, the Capitol is the "people's house". Many public citizens do not come to the building during the legislative session but they come for Children and Youth Day. They are not only able to participate in many activities provided by community agencies, but they are able to take tours of the State Capitol, Iolani Palace, Washington Place and the other buildings around the Capitol. It is a place where people should come and feel comfortable. If Children and Youth Day is held at the Capitol, then isn't it wonderful that our children and youth will grow up having fond memories of the Capitol and they will not be afraid of coming here and hopefully will be encouraged to participate in legislative activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.