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February 4, 2018

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
and Members on the Committee on Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol  
[514 Beretania Street](#)  
[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

RE: Strong Support for SB 2089 – Establish Youth Commission

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB 2089, a Youth Commission needs to exist to ensure that our government fully realizes the needs of our youth and network with others to arrive at decisions that are in the best interest of our Youth from a range of members.

One suggestion is to include in the Commission, at least four Youth from a variety of home situations (Homeless and those in homes with families) and gender parity as well. It's most important that the Youth have a voice in the decisions made regarding their needs. Youth do not have the resources that adults many times take for granted. Youth don't have the financial resources to provide for their daily needs, nor the right to vote and many times they are not reconized in order that they speak up for their rights and needs.

Please pass SB 2089 to ensure that the best possible chance to survive and thrive. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW  
President and Co-Founder  
Rainbow Family 808

**SB-2089**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:23:08 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/5/2018 3:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:



# HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

## Legislative Testimony

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Submitted by Jim Shon, Director  
Hawaii Educational Policy Center

**COMMITTEE:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
**DATE:** Monday, February 5, 2018 3:45 pm Room 16  
**RE:** SB 2089 RELATING TO A YOUTH COMMISSION

**HEPC is pleased to support efforts to empower and engage young voters in our democracy.** It is common knowledge that younger citizens are voting in high percentages. HEPC's calculations are that for the 2014 and 2016 general elections, some 250,000 potential Hawaii voters between the ages of 18 and 29 DID NOT VOTE!!

We, the older voters of previous generations, may not be in tune with the millennial generations sense of effective communication or engagement. A Youth Commission, one might hope, could help all of us to better understand a wave of young citizens brought up on the Internet.

In 2015, HEPC reviewed the literature, initiatives and educational programs throughout the nation relating to civic and citizenship education. Summarizing a consensus of attributes for a "Good Citizen" we found:

1. The Good Citizen has learned and can remember key historical events in the creation and development of democracy, including seminal documents and the ideas contained therein; *but it is not enough to have "taken" American and World history courses and scored well on tests.*
2. The Good Citizen has an intellectual capacity to critically analyze ideas, philosophies, and interpretations, and to develop an active habit of mind in evaluating books, texts, media, and all manner of communications; *but it is not enough if the knowledge and capacity to think critically are not applied in the real world;*
3. The Good Citizen actively participates in civic life, including political life, *but it is not enough to routinely vote every couple of years;*
4. The Good Citizen has an admirable character, genuinely cares about the wellbeing of other citizens in immediate community and the larger society, reflecting idealism and a sense of personal responsibility. In other words, citizenship education is related to character education. The HEPC study can be found at:

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/wp-content/uploads/The-Good-Citizen-HEPC-May-6th-2015.pdf>