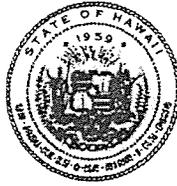


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



P6, Bill 11  
KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

ELDEN ESMERALDA  
PRINCIPAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KAPOLEI HIGH SCHOOL  
91-5007 KAPOLEI PARKWAY  
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
Phone: (808) 692-8200  
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CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

May 30, 2013

Council Chair Martin and Council members:

I am writing in strong support of the Grant-In-Aid proposal in Bill 11 (2013), CD2 for Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) and the services they provide for the high-risk youth in our community and communities around Oahu.

As the principal of Kapolei High School, I have relied on AFY to provide intervention for our troubled teens and to mediate in resolving conflicts between individuals and groups. AFY currently works with 3 groups on campus. Fighting was a major problem in some groups. Through their group sessions and mediation services, fighting was reduced, resulting in a calmer and safer campus. Although they work with 3 groups, their work has impacted the entire student body.

I also appreciate the work AFY has done in helping our high risk youth address family and personal issues, and in encouraging and working with them to improve their academic performance. Their ability to connect with the multi-array of students, as well as being available when a crisis occurs has been extremely beneficial.

AFY provides a vital service. Please help support our students by supporting Adult Friends for Youth who directly impact the behaviors of our students. Please feel free to call me at 808-692-8200 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elden M. Esmeralda  
Principal  
Kapolei High School

MISC. COM. 1150