

Testimony on Operating Budget Bill 11 (2013), CD2
For Fiscal Year 2014

Presented to the Honolulu City Council
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Chairman and members of the City Council, I am here to testify in support of the Grant-In-Aid proposal in Bill 11 (2013), CD2 for Adult Friends for Youth. This bill will allow Adult Friends for Youth to provide counseling services, programs, events, and activities for at-risk youth at Farrington, Campbell, Kapolei, and Leileihua High Schools.

Before becoming a clinician and co-teacher of the Competency Based High School Diploma Program (C-BASE) at Adult Friends for Youth, I was not exposed to many of the struggles that the majority of teenagers are faced with on a day-to-day basis. Having attended Punahou School for the majority of my life and being raised under the care of two over-protective parents, I was sheltered in the sense that I had not experienced many of the present problems that exist in the communities. Today, I see that the youth population of Hawaii faces many challenges throughout their adolescent years with regards to a wide variety of factors including education, social interactions, and drugs. At Adult Friends for Youth, we work as a team to provide the support and services these adolescents need in order to become successful contributors and leaders of the next generation. Through the relationship that is built with our students, both group and individual counseling, and activities which expose them to new experiences, youth are given the tools and opportunities that are essential in living a healthy and safe lifestyle. Their experiences in the group offer the guidance and support that are needed to become well-rounded individuals and make positive decisions in life.

I ask that you support Bill 11 CD2 as it will provide the financial means for youth to obtain the services necessary to assist them in becoming productive members of the Hawaii community.