



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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FROM: Kyle Ishizaka, Executive Director

DATE: April 19, 2016

SUBJECT: Grant In Aid (GIA) Testimony

The YMCA is an organization that is and has been a Protective Factor in the community which provides safe places where people of all ages can make positive changes in their lives.

I am submitting this written testimony to focus in on a particular age group that the YMCA of Honolulu serves, the adolescents.

The YMCA of Honolulu- Kalihi Branch is requesting \$125,000 to provide the following services and programs to adolescents 12 to 18 years of age in City and County District 1.

This GIA funding would help to sustain our

- 1) Structured and adult-supervised After School and School's Out Program to teens in the Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, and Makaha Communities.

Research shows that afterschool hours, summer breaks, and during the intersessions are key times when adolescents are more likely to engage in at-risk behaviors such as: substance abuse, gang-involvement, crime, and violence.

Having this program, gives youth an alternative to spend their free time and reduces the probability of getting into these at risk behaviors.

- 2) This funding would also enable us to continue to provide Substance Abuse After Care Treatment Services to youth discharged from Substance Abuse Treatment Programs.

Currently the Kalihi YMCA provides a twelve week Substance Abuse After Care Program to youth discharged from School Based Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in Middle and High Schools in Ewa/Ewa Beach, Makakilo, Kapolei, Nanakuli, Waianae, Maili, and Makaha. The goal of this After Care Program is to re-engage the youth back into their community where their alcohol or drug use started and assist them to build positive support networks and a relapse prevention plan that will help them remain clean and sober.

- 3) The YMCA would also like to use this Grant In Aid Funding to enhance its After School and Schools Out Program and our Substance Abuse After Care Program by creating an opportunity for adolescents to get assessed to identify their personality traits, gifts, and strengths so they can gain a better understanding of which Career or Educational path best suits them.

Today, adolescents are faced with the challenge of having to decide what career or educational path they want to pursue earlier in life. Department of Education High Schools are broken into academies. These academies are broken into specific career paths such as: teaching, culinary arts, media, and human services. By assisting youth to identify their gifts, their talents, their strengths, interests and personality traits, they are more equipped to enter into a career or educational path suited for them.

I appreciate this opportunity to share what the YMCA of Honolulu- Kalihi Branch is doing and our vision of how we can assist the adolescents we work with make positive changes in their lives, as well as, become better equipped for their future. We can't do this without your help and support. Their future will impact our future.

Thank you once again.