

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



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Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i

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February 12, 2009

The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And Committee Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1016, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR BIG ISLAND JUVENILE  
INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1016, which addresses a longstanding problem in the juvenile justice system in Hawai'i County.

A survey of Big Island police in 2006 found that officers often have no good options when dealing with arrested juveniles who need supervision, but cannot go home, and who do not need secure custody. Existing programs are fragmented, and may not accept youth who are disruptive or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center will help law enforcement by providing a safe holding place for youth so that officers can return to patrol duty.

Beyond assisting police, this program will provide a center where agencies can reach out to at-risk youth, and our young people can get effective help. Police, prosecutors, the Public Defender, the Third Circuit Court and the state Departments of Education, Health and Human Services have all signed agreements to participate in BIJAC and centralize services.

We are requesting start-up funding for a pilot project in Pahoehoe to provide a single point of entry for intake, assessment and case management of delinquent and at-risk youth. Future sites have been proposed for Na'alehu, Waimea, Kailua-Kona and Hilo.

Effectively intervening and providing services to these at-risk youth can keep them from graduating into the adult correctional system, and will save the state money in the long run.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Billy Kenoi  
MAYOR



**TESTIMONY OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII OFFICE  
OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. No. 1016, Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center; Appropriation

**BEFORE THE:**

Senate Committee on Human Services

**DATE:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 Time: 1:45pm

**LOCATION:** State Capitol Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** Jay Kimura, Prosecuting Attorney  
or Charlene Iboshi, First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

The County of Hawaii'i Prosecuting Attorney strongly supports this bill.

The Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (BIJIAC) is a concept that was developed by a collaborative framework of public and private agencies via the Hawaii'i County Comprehensive Strategy for Juvenile Justice planning process. The mission of BIJIAC would be 1) to assist law enforcement with the safe holding and placement of youth taken into custody so that officers may return to their normal patrol duties, 2) to improve public safety through immediate interventions with youth, 3) and to prevent and reduce delinquent behavior through a screening process to identify a youth's problem and refer him or her to services in our communities that could help them.

The BIJIAC project is premised on the concept that service delivery to youth and their families is more appropriate and effective in a multi-agency setting, and that prevention and early intervention is more cost effective than formal court involvement and treatment following case disposition. BIJIAC stakeholders have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for participation of the Hawaii'i Police Department, Third Circuit Family Court, and the State Department of Education, Health and Human Services as well as the Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office. Other community stakeholders have been invited and are strongly encouraged to participate.

The main objectives of BIJIAC would be as follows:

- Increase public safety by assisting law enforcement with the holding and placement of youth taken into custody
- Provide youth in need of supervision with a safe place until they can be returned to their parents or legal guardian
- Provide youth with a safe place to sober up if they are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs but not in need of medical intervention
- Provide youth and their families with an integrated plan for services, reducing redundancy and fragmentation
- Help youth and their families improve their lives and reduce conflict in the home

More specifically, BIJIAC would use a collaborative approach to ‘IMPACT’ the juvenile justice response in Hawai‘i County:

- I**mmEDIATE intervention to reduce delinquency and recidivism
- M**ANAGE our collective resources more effectively and responsibly
- P**ARTNERSHIP between youth, their families, services providers, and Family Court for
- A**DOLESCENTS between the ages of 12 and 18
- C**OMMUNITY and child safety while promoting community connectedness through referrals to local programs
- T**REATMENT through screening, assessment, and referral to appropriate services

It is understood that the costs of juvenile delinquency do not end when a youth is apprehended. The economic and social consequences of juvenile delinquency – court costs, police overtime, loss to victims, lost productivity and future criminality – are extremely costly. The Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center will be designed to reduce future delinquency and address the long-term effects of negative behavior, resulting in a community of safer, healthier families.

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Human Services  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Senate Bill 1016, Making an Appropriation for Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center**

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members:


The Hawai'i Police Department supports the passage of Senate Bill 1016, Making an Appropriation for Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center.

Currently in Hawai'i County police officers, have very few viable options in dealing with juveniles apprehended for status offenses or criminal offenses that do not warrant secure detention and are in need of supervision, but are unable to be returned home. The existing programs available in the community are such that juveniles who are disruptive or under the influence of alcohol or drugs are not accepted into any facility, thereby creating a major dilemma for law enforcement in dealing with these offenders. Law enforcement is then placed into a position of having to "baby-sit" these juvenile detainees placing the initial investigating patrol officer out of service for hours, thereby removing their ability to respond to calls of a more serious nature.

In providing effective early intervention and providing services to these at-risk youth through a Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center may keep them from graduating into the adult correctional system, thus benefiting the community in the future.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to support this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to testify on S.B. No. 1016.

Sincerely,

  
HARRY S. KUBO  
POLICE CHIEF

FAX-1-800-581-6657 OR (808) 538-0001

TESTIMONY - THE SENATE - 25<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2009 2/12/09 1:45 PM  
CONF. RM. 016 STATE CAPITOL 415 BERETANIA ST  
HONOLULU, HI TRUCE END

NAME: MARGARET LEVY-DORANDS, CNA

POSITION: BOARD MEMBER

ORGANIZATION: STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

DATE: 2/12/09

TIME: 1:45 PM

COMMITTEE DIRECTION: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
SEN. CHUN OAKLAND, SEN. IHARA

- 1. MEASURE # SB 1210 - I AM AGAIN THIS MEASURE
- 2 " " SB 1189 - "
- 3 " " SB 915 - "
- 4 " " SB 918 - "
- 5 " " SB 1330 - "
- 6 " " SB 924 - "
- 7 " " SB 1177 - "
- 8 " " SB 913 - "
- 9 " " SB 916 - "

I AM FOR THE FOLLOWING MEASURES

- 10. MEASURE # SB 1016 - I AM FOR THIS MEASURE
- 11. " " SB 133 - "
- 12. " " SB 801 - "
- 13 " " SB 1006 - "
- 14 " " SB 1014 - "

THANK YOU

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