

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 29, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2767 – RELATING TO PROSTITUTION  
Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2008, 8:50 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services to contract the services of a health and human services provider to establish a pilot prostitution prevention education and diversion program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that its passage does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

There are numerous private non-profit and advocacy agencies providing health, outreach, and education programs. It should be noted that prostitution is not limited to females but also involves youth, male and female.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Testimony on HB 2767  
Relating to Prostitution**

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING  
Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Representative Josh Green, MD., Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2008 8:50 a.m.  
Room 329  
Conference Room, State Capitol**

My name is Sharon Ferguson-Quick and as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I'm providing written testimony on the measure Relating to Prostitution (HB2767). I am joining the Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus in support this bill that will establish a pilot prostitution prevention education program. It is imperative that we give our children the information to make good choices. Ones that have a positive impact on their futures. This program will provide that kind of information.

*“There are about 1.3 million prostitutes in America. Many of them, an estimated 500,000, are children. One million to 500,000 children are involved in prostitution and pornography every year. Also, an estimated 50% of streetwalkers are HIV infected. Prostitution is a major source for the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. One estimate in the "Free Teens" pamphlet states that two in five of all prostitutes in major cities are HIV positive”* (<http://www.wright-house.com/ac/papers97/Name-removed-ac1.html>). Prostitution looms as a large danger for young people, especially those most vulnerable who have been abused in their young lives already, *“a high percentage of child prostitutes (those under 18) were victims of incest, rape or sexual abuse as younger children”* (<http://www.wright-house.com/ac/papers97/Name-removed-ac1.html>).

In this day and age our children have access to massive amount of information and images. This “two edged” sword can be a gift that shows them a wide range of opportunities and the choices they can make to get there in their future. Unfortunately the darker edge of that sword is those who would mislead them down paths to make choice that have harmful consequences. Prostitution is one of those dark paths and too often our children are solicited and lured there. We must equip them with the tools and skill to see and understand the dangers of these situations as they appear. One of the major tools we can offer them always is education.

**I supports this bill and its effort to education our children about the dangers of prostitution and give them the skills to avoid being ensnared in their lives.**

Sharon Ferguson-Quick, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
808-586-5757,  
[Sharon.Y.Ferguson-Quick@hawaii.gov](mailto:Sharon.Y.Ferguson-Quick@hawaii.gov)