

Date: January 29, 2008

To: The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

From: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children

RE: Support for HB2772
Hawaii Anti-trafficking Task Force

Good morning Representatives Shimabukuro, Rhoads, Green and Mizuno and members of the Committee on Human Services & Housing and the Committee on Health. My name is Adriana Ramelli and I am the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), a program of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health.

The SATC supports HB2772 to extend the sunset date for the Hawaii Anti-trafficking Task Force to 2010 and appropriates funding for it. This Task Force plays a vitally important role in addressing human trafficking, a serious and escalating crime that tramples on human rights in Hawaii and throughout the world. Every year trafficking impacts thousands of people, many of them children, who are forced to engage in sex acts or labor under slave-like conditions. Hawaii must be proactive in addressing this heinous crime. The SATC has actively participated in the Task Force since its inception and we strongly urge you to support its critically important work.

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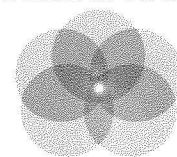
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THE SAFE ZONE FOUNDATION



ATTN: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Rep. Karen Leinani Awana
Rep. Josh Green, M.D.
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. John Mizuno
Rep. Joe Bertram, III
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla
Rep. Gene Ward, Ph.D.

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

HEARING TIME: 8:50am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

HB 2772 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Extends the sunset date for the Hawaii Anti-trafficking Task Force to 2010. Adds members to the Task Force. Appropriates funds. HSH, JUD, FIN

Dear COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING:

On behalf of the Safe Zone Foundation and Girl Fest Hawaii I am writing in support of HB 2772. The existence of this task force is critical to ensure that local protocol, effective legislation and the implementation of education and social services with regard to human trafficking is enforced.

Also, the impending passage of the reauthorization of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) this year, which would affect State trafficking laws and facilitate prosecution of traffickers in this heinous crime, would impact the formation of our own State legislation allowing local law enforcement to bring traffickers to justice. Hawaii's Task Force is instrumental in assuring that, with impending federal changes, our own State legislation appropriately follows suit in the national trend to expedite and improve the successful prosecution of human traffickers.

The Safe Zone Foundation is the non-profit organization responsible for Girl Fest Hawaii, a program whose mission is to prevent violence against women and girls. We know and work with trafficking survivors and other abused and disenfranchised women caught in the modern-day slave trade called Human Trafficking. Women who survive sex-trafficking suffer extreme physical and psychological abuse at the hands of their "owners" who sell their bodies and treat them as sub-human.

It is crucial to support and to ensure the existence of Hawaii's Anti-Trafficking Task Force and to pass HB 2772. Under current law, traffickers may only serve a few years time for the incredible psychological, physical, and spiritual abuse they inflict on women and children caught in this illegal trade. Human Trafficking commands a much higher penalty for traffickers of women and children than the Mann Act which has a sentence of 3-5 years, or our current laws which do not define the crime yet. Defining and

developing the legal definition of Human Trafficking in Hawaii is essential to keep this crime off of Hawaii's shores and the Hawaii Anti Trafficking Task Force enacted by Act 82 and supported by this bill HB 2772 is integral to this endeavor.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Xian', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathryn Xian, President
The Safe Zone Foundation
Girl Fest Hawaii