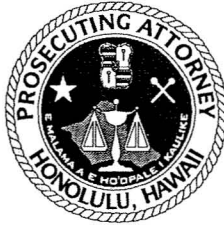


DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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LATE TESTIMONY

PETER B. CARLISLE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DOUGLAS S. CHIN
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING**

**TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**HEARING: Tuesday, March 11, 2008
8:30 A.M., Conference Room 329**

RE: SENATE BILL 2818, S.D. 2, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Good morning Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee, the Department of Prosecuting Attorney provides the following testimony **in support of S.B. 2818, S.D. 2**, which proposes to extend the sunset date for the Hawaii Anti-Trafficking Task Force established by Act 260 of 2006, to amend the list of Task Force members, and provide an appropriation to underwrite the cost of activities carried out by the Task Force.

As a participant in the Act 260 Task Force we have diligently pursue the development of the necessary support services for victims' services to meet the diverse needs of the victims of human trafficking, as well as participated in the development of a comprehensive consensus proposal for a criminal statute address the crime of human trafficking in Hawaii. We believe that this Task Force has the promoted a positive and productive effort by the diverse interests concerned about this issue in resolving the personal and social devastation created by this insidious offense. Our Department stands ready to continue its full and meaningful participation in the Task Force and supports the inclusion of the additional members, as proposed in this bill. The proposed new members will be able to assist in the critical task of crafting legislation that will address the extensive service needs of the victims of human trafficking. The extension of the sunset date for the Task Force to June 30, 2010 will also facilitate the accomplishment of this task. Similarly the appropriation incorporated into the S.B. 2818, S.D. 2 will permit the full participation of Neighbor Island members by underwriting their travel expenses.

In summary, **we are strongly in favor of S.B. 2818, S.D. 2**, and recommend your favorable consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

NĀ LOIO

Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

S.B. 2818, SD 2

Committee on Human Services and Housing

Tuesday, March 11, 2008; 8:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

From: Patricia McManaman, CEO

Na Loio – Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center is a non-profit legal services organization committed to providing immigration legal services and advocacy in the public interest with a particular emphasis on serving poor and low-income immigrants and their families. Since the passage of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, Na Loio has provided legal representation in over 40 cases involving human trafficking victims seeking a Trafficking “T” visa or adjustment of status. We have also provided full legal representation in a handful of other cases for T victims including advance parole, language access discrimination, and due process issues involving claims to in-state tuition status at the University of Hawai’i. Na Loio actively screens all requests for legal services to determine if elements of trafficking are present, and we actively collaborate with local and federal law enforcement and other social service providers in cases giving rise to the prospect of human trafficking. Na Loio strongly supports S.B. 2818, SD2.

Human trafficking occurs in epidemic proportions across the globe, and the United Nations estimates that there are 12.3 million persons enslaved in force labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude at any given point in time. Hawai’i is not an exception as evidenced by *United States v. Maka*, a federal case involving Tongan males who were illegally transported to Hawai’i to build lava rock walls and held in servitude. The *Maka* trafficking victims were compelled to live in substandard housing, subjected to routine beatings, often went without food, and received wages on an intermittent basis. Additional cases have emerged in Hawai’i involving labor trafficking and sex trafficking since the *Maka* case and remain pending “T” visa adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security.

The Hawai’i’ Anti Trafficking Task Force has accomplished much since its inception, as documented in two legislative reports submitted to the Hawai’i Legislature in 2007 and 2008. Committed task force members have deliberated over social service issues and debated the merits of state criminal legislation. Despite the best efforts of committee members, more work remains to be done in the area of state funded public benefits, social services, and possibly continued work on a proposed state criminal statute. As such, Na Loio urges this Committee to extend the life of HATTF and to allow it to complete its important work.