

March 16, 2010

To: **Committee on Judiciary**

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Bellati
Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Rep. Mele Carroll
Rep. Robert N. Herkes
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey
Rep. John M. Mizuno
Rep. Hermina Morita
Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Cliff Tsuji
Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. Cynthia Thielen

HEARING DATE: March 16, 2010

HEARING TIME: 2:15 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 325, State Capitol, Honolulu

SB2045 SD1 - RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime
Establishes class A and B felony sexual human trafficking offenses, and
provisions related to prosecution of the offenses.

Dear COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

FROM: Shubheksha Rana, Graduate Social Work Student at HPU

RE: **SB2045 SD1 - RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime- SUPPORT**

Chair Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair Rep. Ken Ito and other members of Committee on Judiciary, I am Shubheksha Rana, a social work student from Hawaii Pacific University. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of **SB2045 SD1- RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime.**

As a social work student, I have always empathized the situation of victims of human trafficking. I worked in Nepal for couple years to empower victims of human trafficking in Nepal and I have continued working for protecting rights of sex-trafficking victims wherever I go. I feel sad that the victims of sex trafficking are in worst situation in case of Hawaii just because the State of Hawaii has no state law related to anti-human trafficking. Forty-seven states have passed the laws related to human trafficking to combat this grave issue. I don't understand why Hawaii is lagging behind and why Hawaii's legislators have been ignorant towards the sentiments of the people (esp. the victims)?

I feel that there is no valid excuse to ignore the passage of a state law against Human Trafficking. The people urge you to pass SB2045 SD1, a bill which carries the highest penalty available to criminals who traffick women and children for sex; one of the most horrible forms of human rights violence.

The people of Hawaii find this unacceptable. Please pass SB2045 SD1 and do not allow its text to be adulterated by politics.

Sincerely,

Shubheksha Rana.

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am here to support Bill 2045 on Human Trafficking. Presently Human Trafficking is the number one source of abuse that supports "sexual abuse" and "rape" among women and children internationally. It is important to realize that this act is in and on our shores of Hawaii. We will be recognized here in Hawaii as another port for a Child Sex Tourism. Is this what we want for Hawaii? If we do not take action on creating new laws and policies we are saying to these individuals who are creating that abuse that it is an "allowed" act, which will only encourage the act of abuse among women and children to remain. This form of abuse towards women and children should not be allowed. The ones exploiting them, such as Pimps (jons), or any other individual (s) who are following those steps should be punished for encouraging this modern day slavery.

It is inhumane to see that we have not learned as a society the simple definition of what is right and wrong treatment of abuse on human life by not learning from the past. As mentioned before in many proposals the definition of slavery is what is going on. Human trafficking main purpose is to support slavery, sexual abuse, and rape in order to gain a profit. Now, there is a question we need to ask ourselves "What is it going to take to stop this atrocity?" To answer this it includes having your support from you to create stiffer laws and penalties that will indict them to a long a prison sentence.

I would like to say as a mother that I will not want my child to experience in her life the possibility of experiencing sexual abuse and to accept it as being a tolerable act that should be accepted as a way of life. What kind of morals would I be representing if I supported this act and just let it go by? I could say to my daughter that I am trying to do something that will fight against this act of abuse and hopefully she will learn from mommy what is right and wrong. I would like to say thank you and please support Bill 2045.

Sincerely,

Eliana Haglund, (MSW student)

Hawaii Pacific University

March 16, 2010

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HEARING DATE: March 16, 2010

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PLACE: Conference Room 325, State Capitol, Honolulu

FROM: Lachhindra Maharjan, MSW Practicum student at NASW Hawaii

RE: SB2045 SD1 - RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime- SUPPORT

Chair Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair Rep. Ken Ito and other members of Committee on Judiciary, I am Lachhindra Maharjan, a social work student from Hawaii Pacific University and I am doing my internship at National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of SB2045 SD1- RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime.**

NASW supports making human trafficking for any purposes including sexual exploitation and labor exploitation a first degree Class A offense. The NASW Code of Ethics and the Association's existing policy statements provide ample justification for the Association to take a strong position in opposition to human trafficking and support vigorous enforcement of laws protecting victims and survivors of human trafficking from violence, including from pimps and police.

I personally consider human trafficking as a worst form of human rights violation which exists as a modern-day practice of slavery and as a shameful inhumane act. This problem has become a multi-billion-dollar-a-year business. In many developing countries like my home country Nepal, we have data of 20000 women being trafficked annually to Indian brothels. Illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, male domination and lack of right concern towards this issue from the legislatures and the government sectors have facilitated the growth of this problem. My experience in Nepal working with the issue of human trafficking for last couple of years convinced me that negligence of the government to address this problem was the biggest hindrance in containing this social problem.

However, I am very happy that many honorable legislators in the state of Hawaii have expressed their genuine concern towards ensuring justice to the local as well as international victims of human trafficking. During my formal and informal meeting with Chair Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, I have sensed that he and his committee is committed to make a historical contribution to pass the law related to human trafficking in this year in order to give justice to the victims and punish the culprits as severe s they deserve.

I along with my friends, victims, social workers, professors and people striving to make just society would like to urge that we are always with you for your positive actions for the betterment of people and the society. I would like to express my strong determination to join hand in hand with you for stopping human trafficking in Hawaii.

I personally would like to see this bill passed and enforced before I leave this place. I wouldn't like to tell my people in Nepal about Hawaii as a state with worst form of human rights violation. Rather, I will be happy to learn from your positive actions and hope to replicate similar laws/policies and actions in Nepal too. With a strong feeling of brotherhood, I appeal for the justice for the immigrants and the citizens of this country.

Thank for the opportunity to testify.

March 16, 2010
Hearing: Conference Room 325, 2:15, State Capitol
RE: SB 2045 SD1

Aloha Honorable ~~Senators~~: *Legislators*

My name is Carolyn Y. Ballou. Although mostly retired, I still continue as a parttime R.N. healthcare educator and am currently the president of Soroptimist International of Waikiki Foundation, Inc. Our organization, at every level from local clubs to around the world, seeks to improve the lives of women and girls. One of its passionate concerns is the sex-trafficking of women and girls, which unfortunately takes place almost universally but even more tragically right here in our fair state, on our own doorsteps.

The Women's Legislative Caucus has submitted a bill making Human Trafficking a felony offense. Soroptimists, along with the Pacific Alliance Against Slavery and the Kuliouou Neighborhood Board, which is my Neighborhood Board are urging you to support the Anti Sex Trafficking Bill SB2045 SD1. There is no excuse to wait on passing this legislation. Hawaii is now one of seven states without a state Human Trafficking Law. This is unacceptable. We support anyone in office who supports this bill. *To Stop*

Thank you for your time.

Carolyn Y. Ballou
President, Soroptimist International of Waikiki Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1615
Honolulu, Hawaii 96806
Phone 808-561-2836 c

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: michele leong [momileong@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 11:18 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Human Trafficking Bill SB2045 SD1

Aloha,

I just wanted to express that the passing of this bill is extremely important, as it rightly gives those in the sex/labor industry a safe out and allows those in the police enforcement to protect trafficked victims (as most underaged sex/illegal workers are) as opposed to criminalizing them. This bill gives right to those who are kidnapped, abused & forced into labor to pick their lives up and start all over again. It will be a crime if this bill is not passed; not only a crime against all those who are removed from their place of home against their will, but a crime against humanity.

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Michele M. Leong
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Urban & Regional Planning (MA Candidate)

Date: March 16, 2010

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PLACE: Rm 325

SB2045 SD1 - RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime
Establishes class A and B felony sexual human trafficking offenses, and provisions related to prosecution of the offenses.

Dear COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

Aloha, Committee Members. My name is Shansley Glenn and I am 5 years old. I was born here in Hawaii and I love my home. I want to become a Veterinarian when I grow up. I do not want Hawaii to become more dangerous. I want to be safe from bad people. A long time ago black people lived in slavery but I hear that it still exists for some women and children here in Hawaii. Please help pass this bill and make a law so that all children in Hawaii can be protected. If something bad ever happened to me I hope that the police would come and protect me from bad people. We should help other children be safe and live their dreams.

Shansley Glenn

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Dear COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

Aloha, Committee Members. My name is Shayden Glenn and I am 9 years old. I want to own an animal rescue center when I grow up. Some people in Hawaii treat their pets better than they do other people. We should stand up to protect each other. All women and children should be able to live free and not be forced to let others touch them. We need to help those who need our help. I want to feel safe and I want my friends to feel safe. Please pass the bill and make a law to protect our safety.

Shayden Glenn

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Dear COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

Human Trafficking is a grave human rights offense recognized internationally and nationally but unrecognized by Hawaii state law. Hawaii is now one of seven states left in the nation that has not made Human Trafficking a felony offense while protecting the human rights and safety of trafficking victims. The other six states without laws are: South Dakota, Ohio, Alabama, Wyoming, West Virginia, and Massachusetts.

The people of Hawaii feel that there is no valid excuse to ignore the passage of a state law against Human Trafficking. The people urge you to pass SB2045 SD1, a bill which carries the highest penalty available to criminals who traffick women and children for sex; one of the most horrible forms of human rights offenses still in existence. This bill effectively addresses the growing problem of Human Trafficking in Hawaii and to create adequate punishments and effective identification systems to locate and protect victims.

Current state laws are not adequate in addressing Human Trafficking, which has been nationally highlighted recently by the ongoing Federal Sex-Trafficking case of Rodney D. King who faces fifteen years to life in prison for trafficking women and children for sex. In 1999, Hawaii brought Rodney D. King to trial for the same crime but because of the inefficacy of our state prostitution laws in addressing Sex-Trafficking, King received only

thirty months in prison and three years supervised release for his guilty plea. This penalty was hardly justice for the victims and was hardly a deterrent for King.

If Hawaii had an adequate Human Trafficking Law in 1999, Kings current victims would not have had to suffer the injustices he put them through. In this current case, King allegedly forced several women and two children to take crystal meth and then forced them into commercial sexual exploitation while he reaped all of their earnings. (U.S. Department of Justice Press Release; 09-601; June 18, 2009)

The people of Hawaii find this unacceptable. Please pass SB2045 SD1 and do not allow its text to be adulterated by politics.

Sincerely,

Shonna Glenn
President
MICO Mechanical