

**Testimony for HB1007 on 2/22/2011 2:00:00 PM**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 12:07 PM

**To:** JUDtestimony

**Cc:** thepoags@usa.net

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Testimony for JUD 2/22/2011 2:00:00 PM HB1007

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Derek Poag

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: thepoags@usa.net

Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

Be a leader pass this bill

LATE TESTIMONY



# THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

# LATE TESTIMONY

*A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children*

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DATE: February 22, 2011

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: Support for HB1007  
Relating to Pornography Offenses Against Children

Good afternoon Representatives Keith-Agaran and Rhoads and members of the Committee on Judiciary. 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 strongly supports HB1007 to amend the offense of promoting pornography to minors to include dissemination of pornographic material to those under the age of eighteen or to another person who represents that person to be under the age of eighteen. This important bill will help strengthen law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute those who intend to send pornography to children via internet.

Experts estimate that over 30 million minors use the internet regularly. Sadly, all of them are at risk of electronic enticement by sexual predators. While educating children and parents about internet safety are important safeguards, education and parental monitoring of internet usage alone cannot protect children from those who seek to exploit them.

Every year about half of those served by our staff are minors and their sexual victimization typically starts with the grooming process. This process, used by sex offenders to recruit and prepare a child for sexual victimization, can include various tactics to gain a child's trust and to also desensitize them to sexual activity. As part of the online grooming process, sex offenders often display sexual images of themselves or other pornographic images over the internet to vulnerable children to desensitize them in preparation to engage them in sexual activity. We must take strong steps to put a stop to this dangerous criminal offense that puts our children at risk.

We urge you to pass HB1007. Hawaii's laws must keep pace with escalating internet use by minors and the sobering realities of child sexual exploitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.