

**HB240**

**Testimony**



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011**

---

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 240, RELATING TO PROMOTING PROSTITUTION.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

**DATE:** Monday, April 4, 2011                      **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

---

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General ("the Department") supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to combat prostitution by including witnesses in cases that involve promoting prostitution amongst those that are afforded the greatest priority when determining whether the resources of the statewide witness protection program, funded by the Department, may be provided.

It is often difficult to investigate and prosecute the individuals who control or manage organized prostitution operations, without the assistance and cooperation of people involved in those operations. By providing witness security to the individuals who are caught in those operations, and who are being prostituted, these individuals may be able to leave the illegal activity and cooperate with law enforcement.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this measure.



**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth, Vice Chair**

**Before the  
Senate Committee On Judiciary And Labor  
Monday, April 4, 2011, 9:00 am Room 016  
On  
HB 240 Relating to Promoting Prostitution**

**Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:**

**The Downtown Neighborhood Board strongly supports HB 240 that requires the Attorney General to give greater priority to investigations involving witness protection for prosecution related to the promotion of prostitution.**

**It is our understanding that witness protection in cases of this type are now not treated as importantly as are those involving organized crime or racketeering activity. We believe that prostitution is frequently related to organized crime and racketeering, however loosely those terms are defined. Certainly promotion of prostitution has long been related to drug dealing which is often an organized crime activity.**

**In the recent past, we are aware that prostitution in the Downtown and Chinatown areas has involved gangs known to be pursuing crime in other neighborhoods and are certainly benefiting from the human trafficking and drug promotion that organized crime figures have been involved with in the past.**

**The Honolulu Police Department commits much of their limited resources to vice activities, including prostitution, and often related narcotics trafficking. Those who may be called as witnesses in these cases should be given as much protection and security as is practical.**

**This measure would be one more step in the increasing effort to combat this very dangerous criminal activity. Witness protection priority would help ensure more effective prosecution of those who are involved in these activities and help convict them at the increased penalty levels also being considered at today's hearing.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.**





**Supporters**

*American Association of  
University Women*

*Bluewater Mission*

*Catholic Diocese  
of Honolulu*

*Equality Now*

*Hawaii State Commission  
on the Status of Women*

*Imago Dei  
Christian Community*

*International Justice Mission*

*Kumulani Chapel  
(Lahaina, Maui)*

*Not For Sale*

*Pacific Survivor Center*

*Soroptimists International  
of Waikiki Foundation*

*Women Helping Women  
(Wailuku, Maui)*

DATE: Saturday, April 2, 2011

ATTN: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Sendator Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: Monday, April 4, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 016 - State Capitol –  
415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 9:00am

RE: **HB240 - RELATING TO PROMOTING PROSTITUTION –  
IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Committee on Judiciary:

We are in support of HB240 and applaud Prosecutor Kaneshiro's efforts to protect victimized prostituted persons. We urge the committee to pass this bill.

The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery is one of the few organizations that focuses on holistically healing survivors of sex-trafficking and prostitution.

We would like to ideally see these kinds of policy changes to fully recognize victims as victims, free of criminalizing these women and girls who are victims of Human-Trafficking as "prostitutes." This is perhaps a goal we can all collaboratively work to strive for in the future.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian, Executive Director  
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lynnehi@aol.com](mailto:lynnehi@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB240 on 4/4/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Saturday, April 02, 2011 11:43:22 PM

---

Testimony for JDL 4/4/2011 9:00:00 AM HB240

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: lynne Matusow  
Organization: Downtown Neighborhood Board #13  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lynnehi@aol.com](mailto:lynnehi@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2011

Comments:  
the downtown neighborhood board #13 supports Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro's legislative package and we urge you to support this bill.

Alvin Au, Chiar  
Lynne Matusow, Secretary