



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

February 14, 2011

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 15
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Mila Kahaanui, Executive Director
Office of Community Services
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Re: H.B. 577-Relating to Crime

Good Morning Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members. My name is En Young, Legislative Liaison here with Lola Salimova, State Refugee Coordinator, both of the Office of Community Services (OCS), an agency administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

The Office of Community Services is charged, in part under HRS 371-K-1, to "improve the delivery of services to disadvantaged persons, refugees, and immigrants." Additionally, under HRS 371-K-3, OCS is charged to "Assess the policies and practices of public and private agencies impact on the disadvantaged and conduct advocacy efforts on behalf of the disadvantaged, refugees, and immigrants."

The measure before you today is one important piece of a greater conversation regarding the issue of Human Trafficking. OCS is not an enforcement agency however we believe our participation in this process as a human service provider for the victims of these heinous acts is absolutely necessary.

To begin, OCS supports any effort to create statute that will act as leverage for our enforcement and prosecuting agencies to punish these crimes. The phenomenon of human trafficking is becoming increasingly complex and perpetrators of these crimes increasingly devious. Hawaii is one of five states without such leverage, yet we are uniquely positioned in the middle of the Pacific and act as a hub for shipping traffic around the Pacific Rim. Laws are desperately needed to help prevent Hawaii from becoming a major depot for what is widely recognized as an international problem.

In studying this issue, no one will argue there are crimes being committed. It is the opinion of certain groups that Human Trafficking is no more than the sum of extortion, kidnapping, slavery, prostitution, and many other crimes we have existing laws for. However, just as many other white collar crimes, conspirators and masterminds are charged and punished at a much higher level than those carrying out the individual deeds. OCS agrees with the author of this bill that, like the will of the people is more than each individual Legislator's vote, Trafficking is a planned, organized, and coordinated effort that should be punishable above and beyond the sum of its individual parts.

The Federal Government has made their intent clear by codifying such statutes and affording the victims of these crimes a specific legal status with specific services and appropriations. An effort by the State to put this mechanism into place will recapitulate the intent of the Federal government and other nations to recognize this challenge.

OCS' purpose, however, is confined to the provision of integration and other human services to Immigrant and Refugee victims after the adjudication process is complete. With this in mind, we will testify specifically on four issues:

- 1) Restitution- Any monetary compensation received by the individuals is not only fair, but will assist in the reintegration of each victim and defrayal of placement costs borne by the State and Federal Governments
- 2) Non-Payment of wages- Although we will defer to the Wage Standards Division regarding correct amount of payment, we agree leverage and guarantees should be provided that will allow victims access to the assets of any guilty party
- 3) Minimum Wages- Again, OCS must defer to the DLIR regarding correct implementation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, but supports this concept for the reasons above
- 4) Unlawful conduct with respect to documents-OCS highly supports this provision. In our experience with the immigrant, migrant, and refugee population, undocumented aliens or even legal immigrants without documentation experience many difficulties relating to access to services or even freedom to travel as they please. The withholding of documents and the accuracy of documents carried and presented by victims is of extreme importance in qualifying these victims for services.

We will defer to the Attorney General's office and the respective County enforcement agencies to comment on the ramifications of implementing, enforcing, and adjudicating such programs.

OCS continues to be involved with the clients after the adjudication process, and would appreciate a mechanism to coordinate between the respective District and Circuit courts to refer affected victims to appropriate services. We are also actively seeking grants through such agencies as the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Department of Justice to provide quality integration for these victims.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



EQUALITY NOW

New York: 250 West 57 Street, #1527, New York, NY 10107, USA • Tel: +1 212-586-0906 • Fax: +1 212-586-1611 • Email: info@equalitynow.org
London: 6 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BU, UK • Tel: +44 (0) 20-7839-5456 • Fax: +44 (0) 20-7839-4012 • Email: ukinfo@equalitynow.org
Nairobi: PO Box 2018 - 00202, Nairobi, Kenya • Tel: +254 20-2719-832 • Fax: +254 20-2719-868 • Email: equalitynownairobi@equalitynow.org

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Hearing Date: February 15, 2011

Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

Fax: (808) 586-6331
(Please submit 24 copies including original)

Re: Human Trafficking Bills

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 946; AND IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 577

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

I am writing on behalf of Equality Now to oppose H.B. 946 HD-1 Relating to Human Trafficking, and to support H.B. 577 – Relating to Crime. Equality Now is an international human rights organization working for the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls worldwide. Issues of concern to Equality Now include trafficking in women and girls, discrimination in law, sexual violence, female genital mutilation and all other forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. Through our work to end the trafficking of women and girls, Equality Now closely followed the Hawaii state law making promotion of sex tourism a crime. We have also been involved with the passage of anti-trafficking legislation at the federal and state levels.

While we support the passage of a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill in Hawaii and we acknowledge a number of important elements contained in the bill, including the addition of sex trafficking victims to the state witness program and the establishment of a civil remedy for trafficking victims, we oppose H.B. 946 on a number of grounds. First, H.B. 946 requires proof of unnecessary and unclear elements (i.e. “deprives or violates the personal liberty” of a person) for the crimes of “human trafficking” and “sexual human trafficking.” Second, contrary to the federal trafficking law and existing state laws on promoting prostitution, this bill requires the same elements of proof for trafficking of minors as it does for trafficking of adults. And third, this bill classifies the trafficking of adults for labor exploitation as a Class B felony (rather than a Class A felony) which is not commensurate with the gravity of this crime.

Equality Now urges the rejection of H.B. 946, and urges the Committee to support H.B. 577 instead. H.B. 577 focuses specifically on trafficking for labor exploitation (trafficking for sexual exploitation is dealt with in a separate bill), and does not present such an overwhelming burden to prosecution of labor trafficking offenses. H.B. 577 recognizes the seriousness of this crime by classifying Labor Trafficking in the first degree as a Class A felony, and is supported by the Office of Community Services, an agency administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taina Bien-Aimé". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taina Bien-Aimé
Executive Director



The PACIFIC ALLIANCE
to STOP SLAVERY

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: Friday, February 11, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
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Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol –
415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha!

Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing in the islands and Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."



Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Some of the important things his bill establishes are:

- A Class A felony for traffickers of persons for labor obtained or controlled by criminal means.
- A Class B felony for those who knowingly engage in an enterprise involving labor-trafficked victims.
- A Class C felony for the non-payment of wages to labor-trafficked victims.
- Allows restitution for the victims and their families.
- Adds labor-trafficking applicable to forfeiture.
- Adds labor-trafficking to the list of offenses allowing law enforcement to investigate trafficking activity via wire tapping electronic devices.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian, Executive Director
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery

¹Global Horizon's Case <http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: J C [jc@traffickjamming.org]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 10:00 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB577

DATE: Feb 14, 2011

ATTN:

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
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FAX: 586-6331 (Oahu) or 1-800-535-3859 (Neighbor Islands)

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

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Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

I am Trafficking Survivor. From the eyes of someone who knows what it is like to be completely stripped of all freedoms and forced to work under unbearable conditions, I know why Hawaii needs a Human Trafficking Law. Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery back in 1838, and Human Trafficking is modern day slavery so it needs to be treated as a very serious offense. Hawaii is home to the largest Human Trafficking case in U.S. History, and we are one of only five states without a state law. Without this law, victims are not given the justice that they deserve. Traffickers are getting away with these crimes against humanity in Hawaii because Hawaii doesn't have take this issue serious enough. It is time for a change! We need to bring freedom and justice to everyone in Hawaii. Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Jenna Clark
Victims Advocate
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery

DATE:

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EMAIL: LABTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

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Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. ([Global Horizons¹](#)).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Fawn Jade Koopman
Legal Fellow, Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery
William S. Richardson School of Law,
J.D. Candidate, 2012

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

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Valerie McDougal
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GiRL FeST Hawaii
Multimedia Festival
A program of
The Safe Zone Foundation
Honolulu, Hawaii
www.girlfeshawaii.org

DATE: Sunday, February 13, 2011

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Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! The rise in Human Trafficking among both international and domestic trafficked persons here in Hawaii is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation and as a direct result making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our Hawaiian justice system. Too often trafficked victims are mistakenly seen and treated by the legal system simply as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons¹).

Existing Hawaiian criminal laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons to justice. These laws must not be focused on punishing trafficked persons as is tragically the case today.

The lack of legal definition to the crime by the traffickers in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance. These services, which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives, also enable them safely to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

Hawaii aspires to be a central presence in the Asian economy. Today that is tragically true in Human Trafficking of Asians in Hawaii. This problem can only be corrected by new legislation clearly defining the crime and providing appropriately severe punishments for these modern crimes enslaving unaware and unprotected women, men and children.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Michelle M Grondine
Program Coordinator
GiRL FeST Hawaii

¹Global Horizon's Case
<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Mari Kanemura [mkanemura@legacyoflifehawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 10:48 AM
Cc: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony to end human trafficking (HB577) hearing: 2/15/11 10a-12p

DATE: 2/14/11

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
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Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Mari Kanemura

Mari Kanemura, MSW
Family Services Coordinator
Legacy of Life Hawai'i
(formerly Organ Donor Center of Hawaii)
405 N. Kuakini Street, Suite 810
Honolulu, HI 96817
Main: (808) 599-7630
Fax: (808) 599-7631
www.legacyoflifehawaii.org

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

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DATE: 14 February 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

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Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Isaiah Moreno, MS, CSAC
Counselor
Hina Mauka Recovery Center

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

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Good morning Representative Rhoads and Representative Yamashita and members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I am Livia Iskandar, a doctoral student in Public Health from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, testifying in support for HB 577 passage.

I think it is time for Hawaii to pass a bill that recognizes human trafficking as a crime and at the same time providing necessary support for victims of trafficking to end this gross violation of human rights.

This bill deters labor trafficking acts, brings traffickers who exploit trafficked persons to justice and protects, rather than punishes, the victims of these serious offenses.

Victims of this modern-day slavery often fall through the cracks of the justice system and they are in need of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives.

In my professional capacity, I have assisted several trafficking victims in their efforts for redress and for psychological recovery thus have experienced firsthand how important a human trafficking law is put into place to protect vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Livia Iskandar

DrPH student

University of Hawaii at Manoa

DATE: Sunday, February 13, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
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Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Aya Sato

Social Work Graduate Student

Hawaii Pacific University

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! My name is Saho Uemura, Master of Social Work candidate in University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I strongly support HB577.

Effective deterrents require to describe appropriate punishment for offenders, and to protect victims. In the USA, 15,000 to 18,000 victims are internationally trafficked each year (United Methodist Women/Women's Division ¹). Also, approximately 50% are children and more than 70% are female (U.S. Department of State ²). Victims of labor trafficking are often with bondage of debt, and are often subjected to confiscation of identification documents. They are not "illegal immigrants", but "victims of modern-day slavery."

Please pass HB577. I thank you and your committee for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Saho Uemura
Master of Social Work candidate
University of Hawaii Manoa

1) United Methodist Women/Women's Division
(<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/articles/item/index.cfm?id=356>)

2) U.S. Department of State (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/34021.htm>)

Joseph J. Ronda
1330 Wilder Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96822

February 15, 2011

To: House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Re: Support for HB 577- the establishment of class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses.

Aloha Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joseph Ronda, and I am currently a graduate student in the Master's Program at the School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii. I am concerned with current labor-trafficking problems in Hawaii that have been exposed and are within the federal judicial system and may continue to occur in the future.

I am here today to support HB 577 on the grounds that the State of Hawaii needs to develop a labor law partnership with the federal government, as other states have done, to eliminate the incidence of labor-trafficking offenses in our State for the following reasons:

- HB 577 gives local law enforcement officials the right to investigate and prosecute labor-trafficking offenses.
- It lessens the burden on the federal government to be the sole prosecutorial authority in our State in these matters.
- Any practice that can remotely be related to slavery should be against the law in the State of Hawaii, a state that is known for its advocacy for human rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee members. I strongly urge this committee to pass this bill.

Thank You,

Joseph J. Ronda

Christopher D. Yanuaria
3688 Manoa Road Apt. A
Honolulu, HI 96822

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Monday, February 15, 2011 10:00am – 12:00pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

Aloha Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christopher Yanuaria, a graduate student at Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and a resident of Maui County. I am testifying in **strong support of HB577.**

Included among the five remaining states in the nation with no local Human Trafficking law, and with recent uncovering of labor trafficking charges including involvement in the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history (Global Horizons¹), it is clear that Hawai'i has fallen short to prevent labor trafficking while wrongfully criminalizing victims of these violations go unchallenged.

Human Trafficking continues to thrive because traffickers are able to operate in areas lacking sufficient laws to prosecute perpetrators and ensure the protection of those most vulnerable in society. Awareness of these offenses demands the responsibility of both state and federal legislation to take action. The passing of HB577 will be a step forward to deter labor-trafficking occurring in Hawai'i for these reasons:

1. HB577 recognizes Human Trafficking as a serious violation of human rights worthy of strict consequences if convicted.

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

2. HB577 creates a working legal definition of identifying perpetrators, therefore making it easier to prosecute traffickers with sentences commensurable to their crime.
3. HB577 identifies and protects victims of Human Trafficking rather than treating them as a criminal.

Last year as an intern at the Polaris Project in Washington, D.C. I spent about seven months working directly with victims of both labor and sex trafficking. I have seen and heard stories of unspeakable atrocities. I have witnessed the difficulties these women had to face in their every day lives and I was able to put a face to the issue. Apart from their struggles it was the strength they demonstrated every day that inspired me to dedicate my work towards helping victims who has suffered from this horrific crime both here, at home, and abroad.

I urge you to please pass HB577. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Yanuaria

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: michele leong [momileong@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2011 7:31 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Please pass HB577

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing, and **Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states** in the nation that has not passed a state law against human trafficking. Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons1). Existing laws are not adequate, and most often punish the victims (prostitutes, immigrants) rather than the perpetrators (Johns or Pimps). It is imperative that our state take a stand against the injustices that are going on in our hotel rooms, our streets and our residential areas; please do the right thing.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely, ML

--

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

* Please consider the environment before printing this email.

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Iris Chen [ichen@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 9:36 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony for labor trafficking

Dear Representatives,

Internationally, labor trafficking have been difficult to solve. For the rise in Human Trafficking and the finding of Hawaii among 1 out of 5 states in the nation that has not passed through the local legislation is appalling. There is a reason why people ("illegal immigrants") choose to come to America for refuge, because they believed we were a home that valued life, "human rights."

We have become hypocrites of our constitution and rights of amendments when we let felonies get away from such a crime of modern day slavery. With the news of Hawaii recently implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims (Global Horizons1) may have ruin the image of Hawaii in tourism. I have recently learned the existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. In fact, this becomes a festering ground for exploiters because we do not protect the rights of people.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Iris Chen
Concerned Citizen
Department of Tropical Medicine, JABSOM

February 13th 2011

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 15

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Veronica Garcia

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Re: H.B.577-Relating to Crime

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha!

I am writing to express my support for HB 577. Human Trafficking, though a pertinent issue for some time, has received greater exposure recently about the widespread problem of international and domestic trafficking. As lawmakers, I urge you to support appropriate legislation that addresses this serious crime. I am a former employee of the Department of the Attorney General and have discussed this problem at length with attorneys, prosecutors, investigators, and advocates, who all agree that measures in legislation are crucial to identifying victims and prosecuting defendants to the highest degree. You may be aware that Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation which only hinders local law enforcement's attempts to assist victims and allows criminals to exploit victims in what may seem as a "legitimate" business.

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in

the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

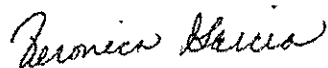
In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Some of the important things his bill establishes are:

- A Class A felony for traffickers of persons for labor obtained or controlled by criminal means.
- A Class B felony for those who knowingly engage in an enterprise involving labor-trafficked victims.
- A Class C felony for the non-payment of wages to labor-trafficked victims.
- Allows restitution for the victims and their families.
- Adds labor-trafficking applicable to forfeiture.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,



Veronica Garcia

¹Global Horizon's Case <http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: nancy barry [nancy@capitolplace.org]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 10:58 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB577

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

I recently became aware of the rise of and lack of legal definition of Human Trafficking at a Rotary Club of Wahiawa-Waialua meeting. Kathryn Xian, a volunteer for PASS, made all of us aware of the need for our community to take a serious look at this growing problem.

The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

It "will be beneficial to all concerned." This is an important component of the Rotarian Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do. Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Nancy Barry
Educator

HB577

Nancy Barry
nancy@capitolplace.org

DATE: Feb. 14, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

EMAIL: LABTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. ([Global Horizons¹](#)).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Ito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "I".

Jean Ito
Soroptimist Int'l of Waikiki Foundation, Inc.

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Mary Kessell [mary@imagodeihawaii.org]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 10:19 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: End Human Trafficking in Hawaii - HB577

DATE: February 11, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

EMAIL: LABTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. ([Global Horizons](#)¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Mary Kessell
Imago Dei Christian Community

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Richard King [rich@alamoanasurf.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 3:03 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: jolly@kingsurfhawaii.com
Subject: HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME

DATE: February 13, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

EMAIL: LABTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FAX: 586-6331 (Oahu) or 1-800-535-3859 (Neighbor Islands)

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims

of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Chialing Young King
Owner
King Surf Hawaii and Ala Moana Surfboards

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

DATE: February 10, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Please pass HB 577, the anti-trafficking bill. Hawaii is one of five states in the nation that has not passed local legislation, making it terribly easy for victims of modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants" and/or willing participants.

Hawaii has also been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. ([Global Horizons](#)¹).

There are currently no laws that address Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims.

The lack of legal definition in the Hawaii criminal statutes makes it difficult to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which enable trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be done by prosecuting traffickers, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims.

Please pass HB577. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Sharon Toyomura

DATE: 2/11/2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

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WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. ([Global Horizons](#)¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, *and protecting, rather than punishing*, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577.

Sincerely,

Carrie Myers

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Tom Tizard [tizard8@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2011 5:50 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: sentokuda@hawaii.gov; repchong@hawaii.gov
Subject: HB577

DATE: 2/12/2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

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Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

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Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. ([Global Horizons](#)¹).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Thomas Tizard

Kailua, HI

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

DATE: 02/14/2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
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Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

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Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

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Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance--

services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Veronica Lamb

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Alexei [alexei@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 6:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME

2/14/11

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino Rep. Scott K. Saiki Rep. Ty Cullen Rep. Joseph M. Souki Rep. Linda Ichiyama Rep. Roy M. Takumi Rep. Marilyn B. Lee Rep. George R. Fontaine Rep. Sylvia Luke Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Aloha! The rise in Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing as Hawaii is now 1 of 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation making it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system as they are mistakenly seen as "illegal immigrants."

Hawaii has also recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims. (Global Horizons1).

Existing laws are non-existent to deter Labor-Trafficking while protecting victims. Effective deterrents require bringing traffickers who exploit trafficked persons, to justice.

The lack of legal definition in our Hawaii criminal statutes creates a reluctance in the implementation of adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims in terms of health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance-- services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to regain control of their lives and also to assist with the prosecution of traffickers.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Robert Uechi

1Global Horizon's Case <http://www.civilbeat.com/>

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<http://www.pctools.com>

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yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Robert Stiver [stiver-aloah@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 11:45 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: I support House Bill 577 re Human Trafficking

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and all Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Human Trafficking among international and domestic trafficked persons is increasing. Hawaii is now 1 of only 5 states in the nation that has not passed local legislation against Human Trafficking. This makes it all too easy for victims of this modern-day slavery to fall through the cracks of our justice system.

As you know, Hawaii has recently been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history involving more than 400 victims.

Laws to put an end to Labor Trafficking while protecting victims do not exist. Bringing to justice malefactors who traffic in human beings is a critically needed deterrent.

The lack of legal definition of trafficking in Hawaii's criminal statutes is glaring. The lack creates a failure to provide adequate services and facilities in Hawaii to meet the needs of trafficking victims. Health care, housing, education, medical services, and legal assistance: all these are services which safely support the recovery and ability of trafficked persons to stabilize their lives, which include the strength to assist in the prosecution of traffickers and prevailing of justice.

In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize and act upon the reality that Human Trafficking is a serious, inexcusable offense. This can be accomplished most directly by properly defining trafficking, by prescribing appropriate punishment, by giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses and offenders, and by protecting, rather than ignoring or punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please act to pass HB 577!

Mahalo and aloha,

Robert H. Stiver
Pearl City (retiree)
Tel. 455-9823; E-mail stiver-aloah@hawaii.rr.com

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 6:50 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: jadamsesq@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB577 on 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM HB577

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jadamsesq@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2011

Comments:

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery - the illegal trade in human beings for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and/or forced labor.

Only 5 states in the nation have not addressed the horrific problem of human trafficking. Hawaii is 1 of those 5 states. Recently Hawaii has been implicated in a federal investigation of the largest labor-trafficking case in U.S. history - involving more than 400 victims.

We cannot solve a problem we refuse to see. We can only solve a problem once it has been properly defined. By failing to define human trafficking as a separate crime, we erroneously focus on the victims of human trafficking as illegal immigrants and prostitutes rather than the perpetrators as slave traders/owners.

By punishing the victims, we fail to punish the perpetrators - those who recruit and transport people by threat or use of force, abduction, fraud, deception, and/or abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation, such as prostitution, forced labor, the removal of organs.

Concomitantly we fail to rescue those trapped in a lifestyle that typically denies freedom and the basic necessities of health care, housing, education and medical services.

Please pass HB577 so we can take off our blinders and begin to address today's slavery problem here in Hawaii.

Mahalo!

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: Joan [guavapie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 8:58 AM
To: LABtestimony; LABtestimony
Cc: kathy@traffickjamming.org
Subject: sexual trafficking

Please vote for HB 577 outlawing sexual trafficking. Traveling in Thailand and Cambodia we have seen too much of children forced into sexual activities. Let's not bring any more of this unhappiness to Hawaii.
Mahalos.

Joan Bowden
73-4180 Kahi Pl.,
Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96740

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 7:57 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: kramer003@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB577 on 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM HB577

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenton Kramer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kramer003@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:
Please vote in favor of HB577
Thank you.

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2011 3:34 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: roxes@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB577 on 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM HB577

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roxanne Libres
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: roxes@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 12:20 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: mtakemoto@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB577 on 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM HB577

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Takemoto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mtakemoto@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

yamashita1-----Kristen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 8:31 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: mindag@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB577 on 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM HB577

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: minda
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mindag@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:
"our biggest enemy is our apathy." thank you for hearing me.

LATE

DATE: 2/14/2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Rep. Scott K. Saiki
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee
Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 15, 2011

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 309 - State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

RE: **HB577 - RELATING TO CRIME**

Establishes class A and B felony labor trafficking offenses, a nonpayment of wages offense, and an unlawful conduct with respect to documents offense. Establishes provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. Effective upon approval.

EMAIL: LABTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FAX: 586-6331 (Oahu) or 1-800-535-3859 (Neighbor Islands)

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Note to clerk: (Please print 24 copies including original)

Dear Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

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In order to deter Human Trafficking, Hawaii must recognize that Human Trafficking is a serious offense. This can be simply accomplished by prescribing appropriate punishment, giving priority to the prosecution of trafficking offenses, and protecting, rather than punishing, the victims of these offenses.

Please pass HB577. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Caroline L. Makainai
Consultant

¹Global Horizon's Case

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2010/09/02/4084-largest-human-trafficking-case-in-us-history-filed-in-honolulu/>