

LATE Testimony

Sharene K. Chow
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Kapolei, HI 96707

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Monday, February 6, 2012 10:00a.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 329

RE: HB1994 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Requires and appropriates funds for the office of community services, in coordination with other relevant state agencies, to provide social services for survivors of human trafficking.

Aloha Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

My name is Sharene Chow, a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and a Hawaii resident. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1994**.

Through my time in the School of Social Work, I had come to learn about the issue of human trafficking. I was appalled by the horrific crimes committed against individuals and the grave physical and emotional consequences human trafficking has on survivors. Realizing this is actually happening in the state of Hawaii was even more disturbing.

I have come to learn that Hawaii does not have a network of systems necessary to address the needs of these survivors in their recovery process. This network of systems is essential such that these survivors will be able to reenter back into society and have the opportunity to live stable, successful lives.

I am also in support of the amendments proposed by Imua Alliance which would support the creation of a "state plan" when a human trafficking survivor is in custody, and the amendments provided by the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (PASS).

I urge you to please support HB1994 and the amendments proposed by Imua Alliance and PASS.

Sincerely,
Sharene K. Chow

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Testimony for HUS/LAB 2/6/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1994

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Dara Carlin, M.A.

Organization: Individual

E-mail: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Like domestic violence, human trafficking is a bigger problem than most realize. Please do all you can to support the anti-trafficking legislation that will come before you this session and please support this measure that will provide healing and support for survivors of this crime.

LATE

Testimony

hscadv
HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice-Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Yamashita, Vice-Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB1994 – Comments only

Hearing Date and Time: Monday, February 6, 2012 @ 10:00am

Good morning Chair Rhoads, Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Jordan, and members of House Committee on Labor & Public Employment, and Human Services. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers lure individuals with false promises of employment and a better life. Traffickers often take advantage of poor, unemployed individuals who lack access to social services. The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is supportive of the provisions in HB1994 that provide benefits for human trafficking victims.

We offer the following recommendations to HB1994, shared by states that have passed similar measures. We offer these lessons for effective and timely implementation of benefits for survivors:

1. The bill should specify and include T and U visa applicants and those with T and U non-immigrant status. Under the U visa program, a non-citizen who is a victim of certain crimes--including trafficking and domestic violence--- and who cooperates with law enforcement may be able to apply for temporary legal immigration status. Those who are eligible for U visas have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse due rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, abusive sexual contact, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and/or female genital mutilation. The T Nonimmigrant Status (T visa) is a set aside for those who are or have been victims of human trafficking, and protects victims of human trafficking and allows victims to remain in the United States to assist in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking. These victims are currently not eligible for programs that are critical to their recovery, safety and self-sufficiency.