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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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March 27, 2012

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor

Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Mila Kaahanui, MSW
Executive Director
Office of Community Services (OCS)

**Testimony for HCR211, Requesting The University Of Hawaii College On Social Sciences
Public Policy Center And Spark M. Matsunaga Institute For Peace And Conflict
Resolution To Collaborate With State Agencies And Advocacy Organizations To Develop
A Comprehensive Plan That Coordinates Statewide Policies And Services For Victims And
Survivors Of Human Trafficking In Hawaii**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The present resolution proposes the coordination and development of a comprehensive State plan for Human Trafficking victim and survivor services. The lead coordinating agencies for this plan would be the University of Hawaii College on Social Sciences Public Policy Center and Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict resolution.

The Office of Community Services supports this resolution, with a few comments.

II. CURRENT LAW

Under current law, OCS is mandated to serve the "disadvantaged, refugee, and immigrant" populations. This mandate allows OCS to serve any population under the umbrella of "disadvantaged," including survivors of human trafficking. This umbrella also allows some

flexibility to analyze current socioeconomic and political conditions to make any such determination. OCS currently receives Federal funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement to service human trafficking victims as certified by Federal Law. OCS also is mandated to serve a coordinating function between governmental agencies to improve efficiency of such services.

III. COMMENTS ON HOUSE RESOLUTION

Given OCS' mandate and experience serving and resettling refugees, which in some cases have been granted eligibility to refugee benefits due to human trafficking experiences, we believe OCS should be given a seat at the table to assist in the development of any document regarding human services for trafficking survivors.

Over the course of this Legislative session, there have been numerous vehicles dealing with the issue of Human Trafficking. Several proposals have arisen conceived to deter trafficking in underage persons, reduce prostitution's "demand-side," and increase awareness of the issue among the community through poster campaigns and other means.

What has emerged is a lack of consensus; not on the severity of the crimes associated with trafficking, the global scope of the problem, or the vulnerability of Hawaii to such acts. We all share these concerns and have been unable to reach agreement on the best way to confront the challenge ahead of us.

No State agency has stepped forward to provide leadership in part because without specific program actions it is difficult to ascertain whether or not any proposed program activities would fall within our individual missions. For example, it is difficult to picture the Prosecuting Attorney doing human services, just as it is difficult to imagine OCS dabbling in law enforcement. With this in mind, OCS fully supports an agency outside the State human service or enforcement system like UH-Public Policy Center to provide the leadership to guide this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony presented before the
House Committees on Human Services and on Labor & Public Employment
Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 9:30am, Room 329

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

And

Susan Chandler, Director

Public Policy Center

College of Social Sciences

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 211 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES PUBLIC POLICY CENTER AND SPARK M. MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE AGENCIES AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THAT COORDINATES STATEWIDE POLICIES AND SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HAWAII.

Chairs Mizuno and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Jordan and Yamashita and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution. Susan Chandler, director of the College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center (PPC) and Carole Petersen, director of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (MIPCR), share the concern relating to the problem of human trafficking; however, the staffing required to address the issues fully and effectively will require support beyond the current capability of their units.

While both PPC and MIPCR are skilled in conducting policy-based research and in organizing and facilitating policy dialogs on matters of community interest, they currently do not have the staff to conduct the complex and extensive work to address the issues presented. The PPC would bring its expertise, commitment, and strong and continuing desire to enhance the quality of community life through teaching, research, and civic engagement and the MIPCR would bring its leadership in international affairs and advancing stable, peaceful prosperous and democratic relations.

However, if the legislature wishes to name the participants of a working group, the PPC and MIPCR would be willing to facilitate a few meetings of such a group. In addition, Carole Petersen has agreed to explore options and models of best practices for providing services to minors who are victims of human trafficking in the United States and share that information with the working group. Dr. Chandler also agreed to assist the working group develop a list of currently available resources in Hawai'i and help design strategies to make this resource

information easily available to the public, including schools, the police and other community organizations.

Additional resources however would be required to develop the comprehensive recommendations for changes in practices and procedures and/or legislation to better protect minors who are victims or at-risk of becoming victims of human trafficking in the region.

Based on the foregoing, the PPC and MIPCR would support the resolution only if it is amended as suggested or if they are provided with the necessary and adequate resources to conduct the complex work requested in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 211

House Committee on Human Services

Hon. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Hon. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Hon. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 29, 2012, 9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Mizuno, Chair Rhoads, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for HCR 211.

Human trafficking of minors is a serious problem in Hawaii. Unfortunately, this problem is too often veiled beneath the veneer of paradise, with little attention paid to coordination of services and protections for victims. Convoking a working group of public policy experts, state departments, and advocacy groups, as this resolution requests, would be a positive step toward achieving the goal of a trafficking-free Hawaii, where all children can feel safe from predators.

That said, we feel that this resolution would benefit from an amendment directing the working group to analyze practices in our state's education system, since traffickers are known to prey on schoolchildren within close proximity of their primary campus and teachers are often unaware of the danger posed to their students, as well as the impact of trafficking upon educational performance. Accordingly, we urge you to add the following to this resolution's operative clause: **"(4) Evaluate the impact and feasibility of providing training on human trafficking to public school teachers and including content on human trafficking in health curricula throughout the department of education."**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMU Alliance

Testimony for HUS/LAB 3/29/2012 9:30:00 AM HCR211

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: 3/26/2012

Comments: