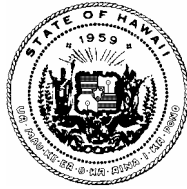


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 29, 2012

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2123, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 29, 2012; 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of the Attorney General to establish a working group to coordinate services for survivors of human trafficking in new and existing communities and requires the Department of the Attorney General to report on the activities of the working group to the Legislature.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) defers to the Department of the Attorney General on this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Christopher D. Yanuaria
1800 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:15a.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211

RE: SB 2123 SD1 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Requires the department of the attorney general to establish a working group to coordinate services for survivors of human trafficking in new and existing communities. Requires the department of the attorney general to report on the activities of the working group to the legislature. (SD1)

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Christopher Yanuaria, a graduate student at Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and a Hawaii resident. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2123, SD1.**

I first become aware of international human trafficking when talking about it with a close friend in Hawaii, which led me to advocate against this horrible crime during my undergraduate studies in California. In further exploration of the issue, I have learned that human trafficking was occurring within the U.S., which then led me to move to Washington, D.C. to work directly with survivors of human trafficking as a fellow with the Polaris Project in 2010. I would have never guessed that this issue would bring me back home to Hawaii.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery that is widespread domestically and abroad, including here in Hawaii. Human trafficking is the most appalling violation of human rights I can think of and it is an insult to the personal dignity of the victim. Having the opportunity to work with survivors of trafficking with the Polaris Project helped me to understand the array of needed services including health, legal, and social support in order to assist them in the recovery and reintegration into back into society process. A

failure to provide these services increases the possibility of being re-trafficked, physical and psychological consequences, isolation, substance abuse, and suicide.

As an aspiring local social worker my desire is to help end human trafficking here in Hawaii. I have realized that Hawaii does not have a working state system in which these survivors are able to receive specific services needed in order to help in their healing process. With the amount that this crime occurs in Hawaii, as specified by agencies working with survivors here, we need sufficient laws in place to ensure we are correctly identifying trafficked survivors and providing them with proper services.

I urge you to please support SB2123 SD1.

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria

David A. Nisthal
1800 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 29th, 2012, 9:15a.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211

RE: SB2123 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 Ways and Means

My name is David Nisthal, a graduate student at Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2123**

The tragedy that is human trafficking is affecting the people of our nation, state, and local community. It is estimated that 300,000 men, women, and children are trafficked to and fro the United States on a yearly basis. This is not only an issue for our fellow citizens on the mainland, but for our ohana in the state of Hawaii.

As an aspiring local social worker I have realized that Hawaii has not developed a comprehensive statewide system in which survivors are able to access in order receive specific services needed in order to progress from enslavement to freedom. There are thousand upon thousand victims being trafficking through our state, and because human trafficking is a unique and very sever form of mental trauma, our state should provide services to the victims and allocate funds to local agencies to continue/enhance current services provided.

I urge you to please support SB2123.

Mahalo,

David A Nisthal



POLARIS PROJECT

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2123 PRESENTED TO THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 29, 2012

Mr. Chair and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the more than 40,000 supporters of Polaris Project thank you for providing us with an opportunity to speak about the crime of human trafficking. My name is James Dold and I am Policy Counsel for the Polaris Project.

Polaris Project is a leading national organization dedicated to combating human trafficking within the United States by serving victims, raising public awareness, and engaging in policy advocacy at both the State and Federal level. We have been selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to be its training and technical assistance provider and have operated the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Hotline since December 2007. During this time our human trafficking call specialists have fielded over 45,000 calls from across the nation. We have also provided victim services to more than 450 survivors of human trafficking since 2004 in our D.C. and New Jersey client service offices.

I would like to take a moment to specifically thank Senator Chun Oakland for introducing SB 2123. We greatly appreciate the Hawaii Legislature's concern for and willingness to address the crime of human trafficking, a grave violation of human rights.

Human Trafficking National and Global Perspective

Human trafficking is the modern-day slavery, and it is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, consisting of the subjugation, recruitment, harboring, or transportation of people for the purpose of forced labor or services or commercial sexual exploitation. Victims of human trafficking in the United States include children and adults, as well as foreign nationals and U.S. citizens.

The United States Government estimates that between 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders for forced labor and sexual servitude each year, 70 percent of whom are women and over 50 percent are children. This does not include those trafficked within their own countries, which is as high as 2 to 4 million

persons. Of those trafficked across international borders, up to over 60,000 individuals at a minimum are trafficked into the United States each year. These numbers suggest that the actual figure for the scope of human trafficking is much higher. Experts also estimate that between 100,000 to 300,000 American children are at high risk of being trafficked within the United States for sexual exploitation each year. The State Department estimates that there are roughly 12.3 million slaves in the world today, more than at any other time in the history of the world. Another estimate, by renowned human trafficking expert Kevin Bales, puts the total number of people trapped in modern-day slavery at an estimated 27 million. Most victims suffer a horrific life in which they are repeatedly beaten, raped, starved, chained or locked up, and psychologically tortured. For many, the only way of leaving is by means of escape, rescue, suicide, or murder.

There have been trafficking investigations in all 50 States and incidence of trafficking have been reported in 91 U.S. cities. Human trafficking is a crime that thrives in secrecy and is fed by the insatiable greed of those who see human beings as a commodity to be profited off of. Globally, human trafficking generates over \$32 billion in annual revenue.

In the United States, the crime of human trafficking is so profitable that in recent years we have seen the emergence of organized criminal syndicates and street level gangs implicated in sex trafficking rings. I cannot impress upon members of the Human Services Committee enough, that human trafficking is alive and well in the United States and it affects every corner of our nation. It is also prevalent in Hawaii.

Human Trafficking in Hawaii

Every day we receive calls through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center referencing situations where women and young children are subjected to violence, coercion, and fraud in order for their pimps or traffickers to profit. While we do not know how many victims there are in Hawaii, we do know that the National Hotline has received calls referencing trafficking situations in cities throughout the state of Hawaii. Some of these calls were classified as tips that human trafficking was occurring in different cities, including Honolulu, Hilo, and Wakiki Beach.

Human trafficking is a scourge that preys on the most vulnerable among us and exploits those who are in need of protection. And while it may be easy at times to pretend that human trafficking is not a crime that affects every day Americans, I can tell you with absolute certainty that it does. It is a crime of absolute evil.

SB 2123

SB 2123 is a critical component of Hawaii enacting a comprehensive legal framework to combat human trafficking. While many states across the country focused heavily on enacting criminal provisions to fight human trafficking, there was little attention paid to the creation of victim services. This is in direct contradiction to the UN and federal models to combat trafficking that emphasize a victim-centered response to the crime. At the federal level the 3's Paradigm was created to address this need where attention was placed in three key areas – Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention.

SB 2123 would begin to create a similar system in Hawaii where the office of the Attorney General would be specifically charged with developing protocols and coordinating the delivery of services to victims of trafficking. The bill would require them to do so by creating a plan on the delivery of services, while coordinating with other law enforcement and human service agencies.

The need for this legislation cannot be overemphasized. Victims often times experience severe trauma and may have an inherent distrust of law enforcement because of the brainwashing that occurs while they are trafficked. Therefore, emphasis on victim safety and services will begin to break down those barriers and will ultimately assist law enforcement in their investigations and in the successful prosecution of traffickers.

Similar legislation has been passed across the country as the interplay between victim services and successful prosecution is beginning to become more understood by state governments fighting this insidious crime.

Support SB 2123

Therefore, we strongly ask you and other members of the Committee to vote favorably upon SB 2123 and create a truly comprehensive framework to fight human trafficking that focuses on prosecution of traffickers and the rehabilitation of victims. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me at (202) 745-1001, ext. 132. Mahalo.

-James L. Dold, J.D.
February 29, 2012

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: babyjean@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2123 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:19:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2123

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronnie Perry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: babyjean@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments: