



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2012**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2221, S.D. 1, RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

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

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General strongly supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to address a weakness in our child pornography laws and provide greater protection for children, by addressing instances of possession of particularly violent or egregious child pornography.

Child pornography is a permanent record of the actual sexual abuse and assault of innocent and helpless children. In this age of electronic communication and sharing of digital information, child pornography – and the sexual exploitation and assault on which it is based – is a growing problem around the world. Child pornographers and predators can easily share pornographic images of sexually abused children through the Internet.

Hawaii laws currently do not distinguish between the various forms of child pornography. Possession of any form of child pornography is just a class C felony offense. Some other jurisdictions provide for a more serious offense and greater potential punishment for the possession of certain egregious forms of child pornography.

This bill amends the offense of promoting child abuse in the second degree (section 707-751), a class B felony, to include the possession of particularly violent or egregious child pornography that involves a child under the age of twelve, sadomasochistic abuse of a minor, or bestiality involving a minor.

We respectfully request passage of this bill.