



THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

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DATE: March 12, 2012

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizumo, Chair
The Honorable Jordan, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: S.B. 2588, S.D. 1
Limitation of Actions; Sexual Offenses Against Minors

Monica Cobb-Adams
Donne Dawson
Dennis Dunn

Good morning Chair Mizuma, Vice Chair Jordan and members of the Committee on Human Services. My name is Adriana Ramelli and I am the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), a program of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health.

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The SATC supports the intent of S. B. 2588, S.D.1 and does not oppose it. It is commendable to attempt to expand the ability of sexual assault victims to seek civil compensation. We respectfully recommend, however, that section (d) be omitted. We believe it is unnecessary, time-consuming and costly to the plaintiff to require a certificate of merit be filed by the plaintiff's attorney to determine the veracity of the claim. There is a "good faith" requirement already imposed on attorneys via the Hawaii Rules of Civil Procedure requiring them to bring only meritorious claims before the Court. Further, section (c) in this proposed legislation allows the recovery of attorneys' fees from a false accusation.

Paul B.K. Wong

In summary, SATC supports this important victim-center legislation and believes it can be strengthened if section (d) is omitted. Thank you for allowing SATC the opportunity to testify.