

**LATE**

Multiple Testifiers

Michele Baginski  
Tori Craig  
Carina Cooper  
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I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bills 192, and 194, which strengthen Hawaii's ability to combat domestic minor sex trafficking.

Based on years of specialized research on domestic minor sex trafficking in the United States, the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework was designed by Shared Hope to establish a minimum legal fabric for the protection of children from sex trafficking and access to justice for those exploited. On November 29, Shared Hope International released the 2012 report card for every state. Hawaii received an F. I would like to see Hawaii raise that grade. These bills address several components of the Protected Innocence Challenge and are critical to closing the gaps in the safety net for past, present and potential future young victims of sex trafficking.

Issues addressed in these bills include:

SB 192 combats demand for sex trafficking in several ways:

- Adds the offense of solicitation of a minor under 18 for prostitution, increasing the penalty for buying sex with a minor from a petty misdemeanor under the prostitution laws to a Class C felony. SB 192 subjects defendants convicted under this new law to asset forfeiture, providing an important financial penalty to further deter demand;
- To put the community on notice of the potential risk posed by those who buy sex with minors, SB 192 requires buyers convicted under this new offense to register as a sex offender.

SB 194 prevents the court from deferring the prison sentence applicable to buyers convicted under prostitution and solicitation of prostitution laws.

These bills take important steps towards addressing the issue of domestic minor sex trafficking in Hawaii.

Testimony from Suzanne Sullivan

March 14, 2013

1777 Ala Moana Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96815 & Wa. State. Seasonal visitor to Hawaii for about 40 years.

I support SB 194.

I am puzzled by Hawaii's stand on minor sexual trafficking-its lack of laws and enforcement. Hawaii portrays its islands as the land of Aloha, of love, warmth and welcome.

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Yet as a visitor in my humble opinion, Hawaii seems to have not one black eye, but two black eyes.

1. **One black eye** is that the sexual sale of girls is allowed so visibly in Waikiki & other places.
2. **The other black eye** is that the police just cruise by and seemingly they look the other way.

A few years ago I learned the laws were not in place to deter & prosecute the Johns etc.

But what about today? I thought Hawaii would have given the police the ability to curb the **sad trade of girls as sex slaves and punish the Johns and solicitors.**

I thought the girls would be off the street. But not so.

**In my humble opinion, the appearance of lack of action projects a poor image of Hawaii, and its legal system and police.** I know it is the finest, but in my humble opinion it gives the image of the police possibly being on the 'take'. Locals have shared this with me too, because they do not understand the lack of action to eliminate this from their society. I know you do not want to project this image!

You as elected officials need to enact laws to curb, prevent and punish those who are involved in any way in the minor sex trafficking trade, plus protect and offer services for the young girls for restoration. For the girl's sake, and if you want to encourage tourists.

I meet a couple with suitcases in the elevator yesterday and I commented that I was sorry to see them leave. They said they were not leaving yet, but moving out of Waikiki to a different location until it is time to fly home. Waikiki/Honolulu was disgusting and not has they remember 30 years ago. They are from a rural area in Canada and cannot stand the smelly homeless and young girls walking the streets trying to sell themselves.

Last year I went to dinner on the beach with my sister-in-law and then stopped in a couple shops. Since I had a bus pass, I said lets go to Kuhio and catch a bus. Wow-bad idea. The street night life was not good. Young girls barely dressed in heels strutting their stuff and Pimps hanging around the corners. As we were waiting we observed drug deals on the streets and at the bus stop the homeless crowd were sharing food, hard liquor and palming drugs right beside us as they occupied the benches!!!! The bus could not come soon enough. I now avoid the area.

I have seen the girls in daylight too, not just at night....with the police cruising by.

With no laws in place to prevent and deter this sex trade, there is no reason for the police to get involved.

The internet is fueling this sick destruction of our children, who do not know that by responding to some friendly guy, it could lead them on a path of destruction, which is hard to recover from.

**FACTS:** It is easier to prevent..... than cure, or rehab a young girl. It could be one of your relatives!

**NO young girl chooses to sell her body! If not rescued, a girl's life span is only 7 years!**

Annually 100-300,000 young girls are trafficked. Average age is 11-14 and average tricks a day are 10-15!

It seems the Hawaiian elected officials are having a hard time passing laws with strength, and as was the case the other day when I was here to testify on SB192, the laws are passed with reduced consequences.

I am not sure who is requesting the lesser consequences, but in my humble opinion, you as elected officials need to take a stand, be strong and pass laws to give Hawaii a chance to remove their black eyes.

As the minor trafficking survivor testified the other day, she felt totally dead inside from selling her body, yet she still had skin- or life. Hawaii has a very high ratio of arrests of young girls and a high suicide ratio too.

I am a grandmother of 9 grand girls. The odds are one of them could be snared via the internet or into being snatched, drugged, rapped, videoed and in essences their lives destroyed. In fact one of mine was caught checking out some inappropriate sites in WA. State! It is happening everywhere!

With stiffer penalties for selling/dealing drugs, it is now safer to deal in sex due to looser laws. Minor sex trafficking is right behind in dollars the sale of drugs and guns, why? Because a girl can be re-sold daily...over & over again. Sick, yet the truth. Young girls are easier to brain wash. Internet pornography is focusing on the young and therefore the Johns want to act out their fantasies with young girls!

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL SB 194, plus PASS OTHERS WITH STRENGTH AND ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF HAWAII, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY FOCUS ON SAVING THE GIRLS WHEN YOU DO THIS.

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SharedHope.org information: Legislature Framework suggestions can be found at SharedHope.org :

The purpose of the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework is to elaborate the key policy principles that have been identified as critical to making the proper response to domestic minor sex trafficking. These principles, as elaborated above, are eliminating demand, prosecuting the traffickers, identifying the victims, and providing protection, access to services, and shelter for victims. These principles can be grouped into six areas of law:

1. Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
2. Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand
3. Criminal Provisions for Traffickers
4. Criminal Provisions for Facilitators
5. Protective Provisions for the Child Victim
6. Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

Each area of law may have several laws that affect the policy within the state's code. As such, specific questions must be asked to determine whether state laws sufficiently address the policy need.

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**100,000 – 300,000 trafficked in US annually estimate. No exact data exists, due to the nature of the acts.**

**Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST)**, which is the commercial sexual exploitation of children through buying, selling, or trading their sexual services, is happening in the United States. Forms of DMST include prostitution, pomography, stripping and other sexual acts.

**Sex trafficking** is when a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion OR when the person-induced to perform the act is under 18 years old. A commercial sex act means any item of value is traded for any sexual service (prostitution, pomography, or sexual performance). Domestic minor sex trafficking is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders for monetary or other compensation (shelter, food, drugs, etc.). This is synonymous with child sex slavery, sex slavery, child sex trafficking, prostitution of children, and **commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)**.