

LATE

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CAMILLE COOPER
DIRECTOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
PROTECT**

Before

**Hawaii State Senate
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**SB 702
"ALICIA'S LAW"**

FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Chairman Oakland, Chairman Wakai, Chairman Hee and distinguished members of the Hawaii Senate Committees on Human Services, Technology and the Arts and Judiciary and Labor thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding SB 702.

My name is Camille Cooper and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs for PROTECT. PROTECT is a nonpartisan, pro-child, anti-crime membership association founded in 2002 and dedicated exclusively to the issue of child protection. We have members in all 50 states, and do most of our work in Congress and in the state legislatures, from New York to California and Illinois to Arkansas. On the issue of child exploitation, we have focused state efforts on securing state funding for Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces (ICAC) by creating a 50 state initiative called "Alicia's Law". This initiative is named after Alicia Kozakeiwicz, who was abducted from her home in Pennsylvania, transported to Virginia and tortured for four days in a basement by a man now in federal prison for those crimes. Alicia is able to speak about her ordeal today because she was rescued by two internet crime task forces.

Since our inception of "Alicia's Law" in 2008 we have been successful in our efforts to secure dedicated funds for ICAC in California, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. These efforts have rescued thousands of children directly from harm and taken thousands of child predators off the streets.

In 2008, USA Today reported that the ICAC Task Forces had identified 2,297 unique computers in Hawaii¹ trading in sadistic images of infants and toddlers being tied up, tortured and raped. Make no mistake these are not simple nude photos being traded online. These are crime scene recordings of unimaginable brutality. Conservatively, one in every three ICAC arrests leads to the direct rescue of a local child victim. Recent studies have shown child rescues to be closer to one in every two arrests.

The ICAC Task Forces have the unique capability and specialized training to hone in on these computers, like a Geiger counter hones in on radioactive material, leading them directly to the doorstep of children who wait to be rescued, much like Alicia. Most of these victims are abused by people in their own circle of trust – parents, relatives, neighbors, friends – and most wait for a rescue that will never come due to sheer lack of resources and manpower.

¹ Computers Linked to Child Pornography, USATODAY, 2.7.2008

(http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-06-kidporn_N.htm),

(http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-07-child-porn-computers_N.htm)

We have spoken directly to the Hawaii ICAC Task Force and The Attorney Generals office, neither of whom knew about SB 702 until I had informed them. While we do not presume to speak for either office, it would be prudent for this committee to get input from them with regards to 1) the magnitude of child pornography trafficking in Hawaii, 2) the magnitude of other technology facilitated crimes against children in Hawaii, and 3) a financial estimate for cost to adequately address this growing crime.

Based on our own experience passing this initiative in several other states, if Hawaii had 2,297 unique computers identified on just one peer-to-peer file sharing network back in 2008, it is safe to assume the number is much greater as there are 15 peer-to-peer networks and thousands of chat rooms and other areas that these offenders congregate on the web to commit these crimes. Hawaii would need roughly 60 dedicated ICAC officers and 25 forensic analysts to adequately combat this type of crime and to successfully rescue those children who languish in abusive situations.

This estimate will likely shock the members of the Hawaii Senate but it is important to know, when beginning this important legislative work, to identify your end game.

While PROTECT is very pleased that Hawaii has stepped forward to introduce this important legislation, we do believe that an amendment to the bill is necessary in order to maintain both the intent and integrity of "Alicia's Law". This initiative and the ICAC fund was created to directly support the ICAC Task Forces in their efforts to build capacity. They desperately need "boots-on-the-ground" and any effort to modify or allow for broad disbursement of these precious funds to other agencies, efforts or NGO's would be to the detriment of their effort and the effort to quickly and effectively rescue Hawaii children.

For those reasons we respectfully request that your committee consider an amendment to SB 702 as follows:

Specifically, we ask that Page 3, line 14 to Page 4, line 2 be struck and amended to state ***"All monies collected pursuant to this section shall be disbursed to the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force located within the Hawaii Office of the Attorney General for the express purpose of investigating and prosecuting child exploitation crimes."***

This amendment will ensure that the Hawaii ICAC Task Force will be able to quickly utilize the funds created by the "Alicia's Law" revenue stream. It will directly support their efforts to locate and rescue children who are currently in harms way and interdict these offenders before they can victimize additional children.

Thank you for your consideration and for committing to rescue children in Hawaii.