

LATE

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**THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawai'i**

February 10, 2014

RE: S.B. 2256; RELATING TO JUVENILE PROSTITUTION.

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Hee, Vice Chair Green, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony, expressing grave concerns about S.B. 2256. While the Department supports the intent of this bill, we are very concerned that a 'juvenile prostitution court' pilot project would not be an efficient use of resources at this point, and would not address the problems that we are currently seeing in these types of cases.

The Department agrees that Hawaii needs more resources and outreach for juveniles who find themselves involved in prostitution. However, we do not believe that increased court oversight would appreciably further these efforts, as our existing court system has been able to handle the current rate of cases that we are seeing, the number of these court cases is still relatively low, and there continues to be no secured treatment facility in Hawaii that is well-suited for these juveniles. In light of these factors, the Department believes that any additional resources to be set aside for addressing juvenile prostitution should be provided to county police departments, to increase investigative efforts and training in this area, and to the Judiciary, to assist in transitioning these juveniles to existing Mainland programs when needed.

Unlike most troubled youth, who seem to respond increasingly well to more-frequent hearings, therapeutic activities and/or swifter repercussions, those who have become involved in

prostitution seem to have a unique resistance to such efforts, sometimes due to a strong attachment to their "pimps," and sometimes due to becoming entrenched in this sordid world and developing the mindset of a pimp themselves. For juveniles in these types of situations, it is unlikely that any degree of increased court supervision or coordinated care will be effective. Unless they are kept in a secured facility, they will continue to run away to the pimps and/or lifestyle to which they have become attached.

In egregious cases such as these, our Family Court judges have been able to work within the existing system to carefully monitor the juvenile, familiarize themselves with the juvenile's needs and circumstances, and coordinate concerted and measured services. Local agencies and non-profit organizations have also collaborated to serve these juveniles, and whenever possible have helped to transition them to specialized Mainland facilities, far-removed from the pimps and environment that created and perpetuated this cycle for them.

For juveniles who are not yet entrenched in this lifestyle, but currently see prostitution as a means of trading for food, drugs, shelter or other needs, the existing juvenile specialty courts (Girls Court and Juvenile Drug Court) may be appropriate alternatives. While existing services and facilities are very limited, we believe that Family Court judges are already able to adequately monitor and coordinate care among the various agencies and organizations.

Rather than spending scarce time and resources to mandate and fund a separate court that would be of little or no benefit to those who need it most, the Department urges the Legislature to put that money and effort towards increased investigation, outreach, and policing to bring more of these matters to light; and also toward transitioning these juveniles to specialized Mainland programs when needed. Creating another specialty court would not only mandate additional expenses for the Judiciary, but for our Department and other agencies as well, and should not be implemented when other avenues would more directly address the current challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 10:14 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: naldajw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2256 on Feb 10, 2014 10:00AM*

Categories: Red Category

SB2256

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jw nalda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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SB2256

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Yaple	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jessica Yaple, and I am a registered voter in Aiea. I support SB 2256 to establish a juvenile prostitution court pilot program. Most victims of sex trafficking feel hopeless and have no social support system. Therefore, they are in urgent need of social services outlined in SB 2256 to help them to navigate the social service system and legal system in order to help them to rebuild their self-esteem, their social support network, and their new lives in general.

Sunday, February 09, 2014

Testimony supporting the intent of SB 2256

As an active supporter of Courage Worldwide Hawaii, Shared Hope International, and a volunteer for the Courage House Hawaii Project I am in strong support of SB 2256. Hawaii is recognized worldwide as a place of beauty, a refuge even. Unfortunately for countless children living in this state, Hawaii is not a refuge, but a place where they are sexually exploited repeatedly while their abusers prosper from their abuse. It is critical we recognize these traumatized children not as prostitutes but as prostituted children. Nowhere, under any circumstances, should the sexual exploitation of a child be acceptable. We cannot bring about change if we do not first recognize these children as victims and offer them the services they deserve to be restored. Please help us stop this, far too many of our children have been harmed but it's not too late to make a difference. Pass this bill and strengthen the safety net for past, present, and future victims of sexual exploitation.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Carson

Courage House Project Volunteer

LATE

February 8, 2014

Date: February 9, 2014

Time: 10am

Place: Room 16, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2256

Aloha, my name is Katie Caldwell and I am a resident of Honolulu, HI. I have been working with victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking for nearly 10 years. In fact, I spent last summer working in the Philippines with girls that had been rescued from sex trafficking. In a decade of working as a social worker in multiple capacities, I have come to learn that sexual abuse is one of the most profoundly damaging experiences a person can endure. It doesn't just cause physical pain, it strips one of all dignity, as they are no longer seen as a human being, but as an object. Hawaii has a major human trafficking problem that so far, has not been addressed. It has been largely ignored and downplayed, in fact. VICTIMS NEED SERVICES. Many are still children, many are foreigners without family or support here in the islands, many are suffering from extreme mental duress because of the abuse and torment they've suffered. This legislation is a chance to begin the healing process. Hopefully, by using gender-responsive treatment for trauma such as this, we can begin to take steps toward assisting victims and survivors, promote awareness about this horrible problem in our islands, and get these children the hope and support that they so desperately need and deserve.

Thank you kindly for taking the time to hear this testimony.

Sincerely,

Katie Caldwell

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:36 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mypillbuggy@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2256 on Feb 10, 2014 10:00AM

SB2256

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Feb 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marisa Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support/pass SB 2256 to establish a juvenile prostitution court pilot program. Prostitution of minors is a significant problem in Hawaii and is child abuse. We need a judiciary who understands victims' special circumstances and approaches victims in a way that is conducive to their extrication/recovery.

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