

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

263

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 18, 2015

RE: H.B. No. 344

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 344 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of the Attorney General to fund the Statewide Sexual Assault Services Program to ensure that all islands have access to quality forensic sexual assault examinations.

The funds will be used to restart the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training initiative ("HSART"), a statewide program that provides medical, legal, and counseling services to victims. HSART also provides investigative services including forensic sexual assault examinations that are necessary for the effective prosecution of perpetrators.

The Department of the Attorney General; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii; Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui; Children's Justice Center of Kauai; and several concerned individuals testified in support of the measure. The YWCA of Hawaii Island testified in support and provided a proposed amendment. The Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, and YWCA of Kauai provided comments.

HB344 HSCR JUD HMS 2015-1823



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 344 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



