

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2016

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: 329

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1782 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

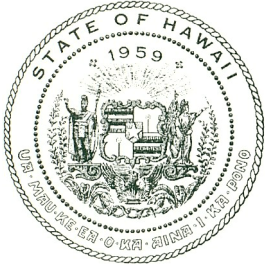
Purpose of Bill: Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's law.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB 1782. However, the Department strongly recommends the convening of an Erin's Law task force prior to passage of any legislation to mandate or implement child abuse prevention education in Hawaii's public schools. We respectfully offer and prefer the language in SB 2235 which establishes and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to be convened by the legislature. The Department is open to working with stakeholders to review other states' implementation, cost implications, and report recommendations to the legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Cathy Betts, JD

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Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
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235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
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February 4, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB 1782, Relating to Education

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1782, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of HB 1782, which would establish an "Erin's Law" curriculum within the Department of Education to educate teachers and students about sexual abuse prevention and education.

Sexual abuse is a difficult subject for many people to talk about. Our educators are not immune to this difficulty. Predators of children bank on people being resistant to talking about sexual abuse. Silence about the subject allows predators to continue—when we don't know the warning signs, when our children are scared or threatened into thinking mistreatment is acceptable, when we do not raise awareness about this issue—abusers continue. While opponents may argue that this education need not extend from pre-K to 12th grade, all evidence refutes this. More than 20% of child sexual abuse victims are under the age of 8. Youth ages 12-17 have a 2.3 higher risk of sexual violence than adults. Currently, there are 42 million adults in the U.S. who were sexually abused as children.¹

Sexual abuse prevention and education is crucial for educators and students to have. While some sexual abuse prevention education is offered to our DOE, implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Additionally, educators can sometimes be confused about their role in identifying signs of child abuse and how this relates to mandatory reporting.

Children are largely at risk for sexual abuse and remain at high risk of being abused by a family friend or family member, making it even more crucial that an educator has the tools to help a child. Public school students do not receive regular, consistent and comprehensive sexual abuse prevention education. Parents and guardians may not receive information about child sexual abuse topics; and educators and school staff may not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling disclosures and mandatory reported to child welfare.

An Erin's Law curriculum would use age and developmentally appropriate and culturally competent tools to educate teachers, staff, and students about sexual abuse. The Commission strongly supports HB 1782 and respectfully requests that this Committee pass this bill.

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2000).



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 3, 2016

TO: Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: HB 1782 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's law.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports the intent of this bill and its commitment to addressing the safety and well-being of students in the prevention of sexual abuse. Prior to passing legislation which mandates education in the area of child abuse prevention for public school students in grades pre-kindergarten to twelve, EOEL recommends assembling a task force who would be charged with reviewing current policies, programs and curricula and responsible for submitting a report of recommendations to the legislature. We respectfully offer the language included in SB 2235 which appropriates funds for the establishment of the Erin's Law task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of

Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services

Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together

(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

January 29, 2016

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1782 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1782 Relating to Education.

One in five girls and one in twenty boys have been victims of child sexual abuse. Three out of four adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. (National Center for Victims of Crime data).

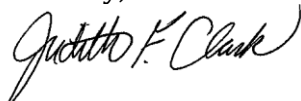
Children who have received education about sexual abuse are better able to recognize it, to escape from potentially dangerous situations, and more likely to report sexual abuse when it occurs.

The only education I received about sexual abuse as a child was to beware of strangers. But it was not a stranger who sexually abused me and five other girls in my fourth grade class – It was my school bus driver. When we rode on the school bus, we were supposed to obey his instructions. Our parents believed that those instructions would be about sitting quietly in our seats, and not fighting or yelling. Instead, he made us sit on his lap and hug and kiss him. When someone finally reported what was going on, we thought that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

No child deserves sexual abuse, and prevention education in the schools is a powerful tool to prevent it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:01 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1782 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1782

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	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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THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

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

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Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Robert H. Pantell, MD

Gidget Ruscetta

Joshua A. Wisch

DATE: February 4, 2016

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1782
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports H.B. 1782, which establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools, sets guidelines for instruction, and is modeled after Erin's law.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii. Nationally, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been the victim of sexual assault in their lifetimes. Of these, 44% were under the age of 18 at the time of the assault. This is consistent with SATC's experience on Oahu – in 2014, of the 637 victims who sought care for the first time at SATC, 51% were children. It is important to note that these numbers do not reflect the total number of victims on Oahu or in our state, but only those who were able to seek help from our center.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people be taught the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves against sexual violence and obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible. Moreover, it is critical that those who interact the most with children and young people, including parents, other guardians, educators and school staff, receive sufficient training to understand issues of sexual violence and respond appropriately.

Through a contract with the State Department of Health (DOH), SATC currently delivers training to teachers, counselors and school administrators on a series of age-appropriate, evidence-based curricula for sexual abuse prevention education. Each of the four curricula, designed for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd grade through 5th grade, middle school, and high school, were developed locally in close partnership with the State Department of Education (DOE), teachers from both public

and private schools, and the University of Hawaii's Teacher Institute of Education, and all are DOE-approved to fulfill existing health education requirements.

Despite these combined efforts, it is our understanding that implementation of sexual abuse prevention education curricula is not consistent system wide, and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular, consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents informed about child abuse topics. In addition, many school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting.

Laws requiring that public school systems implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement, have passed in 26 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 17 others. These laws and the programs they would create represent a national trend in safety, health and wellbeing education and are collectively referred to as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education.

H.B. 1782 would be a positive step towards ensuring system wide sexual abuse prevention education, by requiring that, by law, all public schools shall establish a program for students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health

FIRST RELATIONSHIPS

February 3, 2016

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair House Human Services Committee
Bert Kobayashi, Vice-Chair House Human Services Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Board Of Directors

President: Joey

Keahiolalo

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JoAnn Bishop Freed

Chris Jackson

Jodi Johnson

Leilani Kupahu-Marino

Linda Rich

Patria Weston-Lee

Joan Takamori

Related to: **H.B. NO. 1782, Education-Erin's law**

Dear Representatives Morikawa, Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

As President of the Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health, I am testifying in strong support of HB 1782.

In 2015, Child Welfare Services has received 15,165 calls regarding Child Abuse and Neglect on Oahu only. Statewide they received in total 22,074 mandated reporting calls. National statistics say that 11% of children are sexually assaulted every year. HAIMH knows from working in the sex abuse treatment field since 1986 that this number is still **underreported**.

Within my work with children and families I have long witnessed the intergenerational effect of children who are not identified and who are not treated for sexual abuse. I know through working with these individuals, they have a higher risk of suicide, poor coping skills, difficulty developing prosocial behaviors, problems with establishing healthy supportive relationships, have difficulty academically, have difficulty finding and maintaining employment, have higher risk of substance abuse, have difficulty regulating emotions, develop eating disorders and often become depressed, anxious, and feel hopeless.

Research is clear that the sooner sexual abuse is identified, the quicker the child can begin to feel safer, the abuse can stop, and the healing process can begin. Too often shame, stigma and misbelief become obstacles in moving forward with reporting requirements. HAIMH's stance is that exposing sexual abuse should not be avoided, silenced or disregarded, and that the community needs to stand together on this issue. Erin's Law can help strengthen this process that we have been striving to achieve.

Teachers often have the most readily available and influential access to a child, and training in sex abuse prevention can create a greater impact on the future of a child victim. Early education targeting safe touch, unsafe touch, safe secrets, and unsafe secrets can change the dynamic of sexual abuse. Preventative means help take the power away from the abuser, and give the victim a stronger voice. The initial confusion, disbelief, and terror may be weakened as children will learn that it is not okay for someone to hurt, touch, or violate them. Early identification and intervention will also prevent ongoing traumatization, and prolonged exposure to the abuse/abuser.

HAIMH strongly supports this bill, so that children can live in a society in which violence is not tolerated. By passing this bill we hope that child victims will become more empowered to tell someone when they are being hurt and that sexual abuse will no longer be underreported.

Our children in our communities are our future and it is time to further nurture their healthy development and protect them from pending harm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AJoey Keahiolalo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "J".

AJoey Keahiolalo, President



TO: Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: February 4, 2016; 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1782 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

My name is Ryan Kusumoto. I am the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1782 – Relating to Education. Sadly, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday. There are more than 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. This is a matter that is often kept silent and as a result is left unaddressed (most people do not even realize this is a significant issue or that they are a victim). In almost every case, the only witnesses to this crime are the perpetrator and the victim. Perpetrators often tell the child this is a secret and no one will believe them. Children rarely report abuse and are meant to feel that the abuse was their fault. Most victims never tell anyone until several years after the abuse, if they ever tell at all.

The children who endure this traumatic sexual abuse have a long list of adverse issues. These issues include:

- Poor academic performance
- Dropping out of high school
- Self mutilation
- Persistent post traumatic stress disorder
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships
- Difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships
- Cognitive deficits
- Depression
- Dissociative symptoms
- Suicide

It is critical to identify these child victims early so that support can be put in place to significantly reduce the likelihood of the long-term adverse issues and costs of the above listed items.

We support Erin's Law because it recommends:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education should be taught in grades as early as pre-Kindergarten through high school.
- Giving children the tools to speak up and seek help.
- Providing intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
- Training school staff and faculty regarding child sexual abuse prevention and the handling of sexual abuse disclosures.

If we do not take strong measures to address these matters that impact child sexual abuse, it will continue

to grow and will only negatively impact Hawai'i's future, people, keiki, communities, culture, economy, reputation, commerce, and industries. This Bill will also place emphasis on those who take advantage of the most vulnerable, as they are the culprits and drivers of this criminal enterprise. This is cutting into the fabric of the Aloha State and is not acceptable here in Hawai'i. We support the passing of this bill.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 1782**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:59 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1782 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1782

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Will there be the right of refusal by a parent?

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 7:10 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1782 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1782

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1782 as it would require a program in public schools to prevent sexual abuse of children. Obviously this is a goal we all can agree upon. It may have opponents who do not want any talk of sex to children. The model, Erin's Law has been passed in a range of states including Alabama and Texas. So surely we are not as puritanical as they are. We can make this happen.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:50 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1782 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1782

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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S. Kaye
Honolulu, HI 96728

Committee on Human Services Hearing
HB 1782 Relating to Education
Thursday, February 04, 2016, 8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329

LATE

Dear Chair Morikawa and Vice Chair Kobayashi,

Thank you for holding a hearing on this important program for the prevention of sexual abuse through education in Hawaii's public schools. My husband was a special education teacher in Hawaii for 14 years. Each year he was burdened by his students' stories of abuse, stories that kept us up at night, made us wish we could steal the children away from their families, made us doubt the state systems that are supposed to keep Hawaii's keiki safe. We learned of abuse at every age, for both boys and girls, and coming from their family members and trusted friends. And we learned that very little is done to help them.

It seems that there is an increasing and dangerous idea in Hawaii that our young people should be sheltered from basic information about human anatomy and reproductive biology. A growing sense of shame seems to be centered on even healthy expressions of sexuality and reproductive functions, from procreation to pregnancy prevention to breast feeding. The trend seems primarily focused on hiding and increasing secrecy around the bodies of women--even as our body images are plastered across movie screens and magazines!

Secrecy never keeps us safe, and this measure will help abused children find someone that can help. Thank you for your strong support of this educational program, and other initiatives to ensure that our young people, particularly our young women and girls, grow up knowing how their healthy bodies, and healthy relationships, are supposed to work.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

LATE

FOR: HB 1782 Relating to Education
DATE: Thursday, February 04, 2016
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Human Services
ROOM: Conference Room 329
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony with comments only on HB 1782

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding Senate Bill 2232, "Relating to Education." It appears that this proposal is intended to apply specifically to the Department of Education (DOE) schools, as the content of the proposed required instruction is to be left to the discretion of the Board of Education, subject to certain requirements. However, when proposed legislation addresses "public schools," this generally is understood to include public charter schools.

If the proposed requirements are intended to apply DOE schools only, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to change the references to "public schools" to say "department schools." If the intent is that they also apply to charter schools, we would respectfully request that the bill be amended to provided that the content of the proposed required instruction be left to the discretion of each charter school's governing board, subject to the requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

LATE

DATE: Thursday, February 04, 2016
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT for HB1782 formerly know as Erin's Law

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members,

The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in support of HB 1782, which would establish an "Erin's Law" curriculum within the Department of Education to educate teachers and students about sexual abuse prevention and education.

Sexual abuse is a difficult subject for many people to talk about. Our educators are not immune to this difficulty. Predators of children rely on this reluctance. **Silence about the subject allows predators to continue.** There are far too many sad examples of the consequences of such silence as depicted in the recent film "Spotlight".

In fact, Karen Terry, the principal investigator for the John Jay College of Criminal Justice team looking into the Boston case, reported that the average age of victims was 12.6 years. While the most common category of victims was a boy between 11 and 14. That category accounted for 40 percent of all victims. The report found that 51 percent of victims, including females, were between 11 and 14; 27 percent were between 15 and 17; **16 percent were from 8 to 10; and nearly 6 percent were under 7. Male victims tended to be older than female victims .**

So while opponents may argue that this education need not extend from pre-K to 12th grade, the evidence refutes this. **More than 20% of child sexual abuse victims are under the age of 8 .** Youth ages 12-17 have a 2.3 higher risk of sexual violence than adults. Currently, there are 42 million adults in the U.S. who were sexually abused as children. Sexual abuse prevention and education is crucial for educators and students to have. While some sexual abuse prevention education is offered to our DOE, **implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for the provision of training and education are limited.**

Additionally, educators can be confused about their role in identifying signs of child abuse and how this relates to mandatory reporting. Children are largely at risk for sexual abuse and remain at high risk of being abused by a family friend or family member, making it even more crucial that an educator has the tools to help a child.

Public school students do not receive regular, consistent and comprehensive sexual abuse prevention education. Parents and guardians may not receive information about child sexual abuse topics; and educators and school staff may not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling disclosures and mandatory reported to child welfare.

An Erin's Law curriculum would use age and developmentally appropriate and culturally competent tools to educate teachers, staff, and students about sexual abuse.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676