

**LATE**



**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](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**LATE**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [burgharc@gmail.com](mailto:burgharc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Mar 18, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:23:25 AM

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**HB1787**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for EDU on Mar 18, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is understood that anything to do with sexual content is a difficult challenge for the legislature. Imagine though what a challenge it is to be the educator in the schools who is trying to help a child learn who has been traumatized or know someone who has been or thinks that they might be in this situation with no where else to turn. Long gone are the days when society did not creep into the schools and we can leave things to the home only no matter how much we would like that. Please consider providing funds to assist children, our children.

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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dylanarm@hawaii.edu](mailto:dylanarm@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Mar 14, 2016 13:25PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 11:56:33 AM

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**LATE**

**HB1787**

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for EDU on Mar 14, 2016 13:25PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	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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**LATE**

March 17, 2016

To: Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

From: Zyra Morales

Hearing Date: Friday, March 18, 2016

Time: 1:15 P.M

Location: Conference Room 229

**SUBJECT: IN STRONG FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 1787 RELATING TO ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE; EDUCATION; & SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION.**

My name is Zyra Morales and I am currently a student in the School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am in **strong favor** of House Bill 1787, which relates to education and Erin's Law Task Force.

I **strongly support** this bill because:

1. I knew a family who had recently gone through a situation where someone whom they were very close to and loved sexually abused them. This person was and still is a minor and had no idea what was going on. The person who sexually abused them should have known better than to do something like that considering they were family.
2. I feel that our children should be aware and informed the definition of what sexual abuse is so that if someone was doing something like that to them, they are able to distinguish what is going on.
3. Children should be protected against any type of sexual abuse or assault.

4. It really makes me upset that these kinds of things happen especially to our keiki's who barely know what's going on, much less barely have the knowledge on the subject of "sex", period.

I hope that you consider our children and the safety of their well being by passing and supporting House Bill 1787 as much as I do. Thank you so much for your time and opportunity in letting me state my belief on this bill.