

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/01/2016
Time: 11:02 AM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1787, HD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age-appropriate curricula. (HB1787 HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1787 HD2 which establishes and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to be convened by the legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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

FOR: HB 1787 HD2 Relating to Education
DATE: Tuesday, March 01, 2016
TIME: 11:02 AM
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony supporting the intent of HB1787 HD2

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission supports the intent of House Bill 1787, House Draft 2, "Relating to Education," which would establish a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse. We appreciate that the task force would include representation from the charter school sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

February 29, 2016

TO: Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: HB 1787, HD 2 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Time: 11:02 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for Erin’s Law Task Force to review policies, programs and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

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 (pre-kindergarten to grade twelve) in the prevention of sexual abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 5:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Mar 1, 2016 11:02AM*

HB1787

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2016 11:02AM in Conference Room 308

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Mar 1, 2016 11:02AM

HB1787

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2016 11:02AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in support of this measure as indicated in previous testimony of record. Surely we can all agree that the least we can do to protect children from child predators is to convene a task force of stakeholders to address the issue. "Spotlight" won the Oscar this year, but the Catholic Church is not the only institution that has failed to adequately address the problem, our public schools are also not doing a consistent job in this regard. Mahalo, Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

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THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

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

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Michael P. Matsumoto

Robert H. Pantell, MD

Joshua A. Wisch

DATE: March 1, 2016

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 1787 H.D. 2
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports H.B. 1787 H.D. 2, which creates and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age appropriate curricula; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics.

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 they 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 sexual 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. 1787 H.D. 2 is necessary to provide the State of Hawaii the means to design and plan a strong, sustainable program to consistently make sexual abuse prevention education available to all public school students.

In order to do so, this measure would follow the model of several other states that have successfully adopted Erin's Law, by bringing together stakeholders from the legislature, relevant state agencies and the community in order to collaboratively review existing policies, programs and curricula; assess service gaps and needs; and make well-informed recommendations through a transparent, report-driven process.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to support H.B. 1787 H.D. 2.

LATE



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Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

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March 1, 2016

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB1787, HD2 – Relating to Education – Support**
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308 – March 1, 2016 – 11:02 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HB1787, HD2 – Relating to Education.

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

HCAN supports HB1787, HD2 – Relating to Education, which would appropriate funds for an Erin's Law Task Force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age-appropriate curricula.

Twenty-six states have enacted a model of "Erin's Law," named after a child abuse victim in Illinois, that requires all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- Students in grades pre-K – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult;
- School personnel all about child sexual abuse;
- Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. It's critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from being prey to child sexual abuse.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to pass this bill.



LATE

46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1787, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO
EDUCATION**

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 11:02 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of HB 1787, HD2, relating to education.

IMUAlliance is one of Hawai'i's leading providers of anti-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Victims typically induced into exploitation between the ages of 12-14, years of heightened developmental vulnerability, and are often predisposed to exploitation by a complex and overlapping traumatic history that may include child abuse or neglect, assault, sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, and bullying.

We believe that education ends exploitation. When students are empowered with knowledge about risk factors of sex trafficking and sexual abuse, they are able to spot the signs of abuse and take action to protect themselves, their peers, and their communities. Moreover, education guards against the psychological impact of abuse, which can include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorder, explosive outbursts, self-injurious and suicidal behavior, and hyper-sexualization. That said, **we ask that this bill be amended to include a public school teacher as part of the task force**, since teachers facilitate educational programming and curricula, while managing student response and intervention frameworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance