

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/11/2016
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Human Services
House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1787 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for the Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through use of age appropriate curricula; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1787 which establishes and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to be convened by the legislature. Further, the Department respectfully suggests at least two school principals should be part of the task force.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



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

February 9, 2016

TO: Dee Morikawa, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

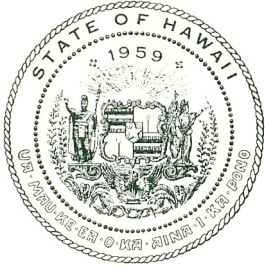
SUBJECT: HB 1787 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for the 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.

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. For the purpose of addressing age appropriate curricula and developmentally appropriate practice in pre-kindergarten settings, EOEL respectfully suggests that the director of EOEL, or the director's designee, should be a part of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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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Honolulu, HI 96813
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February 11, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB 1787, Relating to Education

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1787, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of HB 1787, which would establish an "Erin's Law" Task force to help guide and direct the implementation of a sexual abuse prevention curriculum within our Department of 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 others' resistance 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.

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. Yet, children are largely at risk for sexual abuse and remain at high risk of being abused by a family friend or family member.

As a result, public school students may not receive regular, consistent 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 taskforce would work with educators and community stakeholders to develop and implement the best practices and curricula, resulting in safer students. The Commission strongly supports HB 1787 and respectfully requests that the Committees pass this bill.

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 Relating to Education
DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2016
TIME: 9:00 AM
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 329
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Comments on HB1789

Chairs Morikawa and Takumi, Vice Chairs Kobayashi and Ohno, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding House Bill 1787, "Relating to Education." It appears that this proposal is intended to apply specifically to the Department of Education (DOE) schools, but when proposed legislation addresses "public schools," this generally is understood to include public charter schools. We note that the bill establishes a task force that does not include representation from the charter school sector. 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."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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

February 2, 2016

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

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1787 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1787 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 knew that we were supposed to obey his directions. Our parents believed that those directions 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.

If we had received education designed to prevent sexual abuse, we would have recognized and reported it when it started.

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

Hawaii Youth Services Network would be pleased to serve on the Erin's Law Task Force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 6:24 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1787

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HUS/EDN on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM 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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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:55 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1787

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HUS/EDN on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Kusumoto	Parents And Children Together	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:37 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1787

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS/EDN on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 5:26 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1787

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS/EDN on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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

Gidget Ruscetta

Joshua A. Wisch

DATE: February 11, 2016

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

The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

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
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chairs Morikawa and Takumi, Vice Chairs Kobayashi and Ohno, and members of the House Committees on Human Services and on Education.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports H.B. 1787, 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 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.