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TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
H.B. 344 - SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT SERVICES

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair
and Members
House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing on February 10, 2015
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** H.B. 344 - Relating to Sexual Assault Treatment Services. It is our understanding that the bill will fund the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training (HSART) program which coordinates and standardizes the handling of sexual assault medical-legal cases throughout the state.

In the past, HSART has been instrumental in providing a cohesive and standardized approach in handling all medical-legal issues involving the Attorney General, the county prosecutors' offices, the county police departments, sexual abuse treatment centers, medical/forensic providers and the crime lab. Through the above partnerships sexual assault victims and their families were provided with medical, legal, counseling and investigative services in a manner consistent with the best practices throughout the United States and especially aimed at serving our rural communities.

A great example of this is the island of Moloka'i, where a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners program has been established for the first time. This is significant because sexual assault victims, children and adults, no longer have to travel by plane or boat to the island of Maui in order to receive a forensic sexual assault medical examination. All medical-legal services and treatment are now available to Molokai residents on their own island.

Your support of H.B. 344 assures that victims/survivors and their families, throughout the various Hawaiian islands and its' rural communities will receive the medical-legal care and services that are crucial to their recovery and facilitate the effective prosecution against those who commit the crime of sexual assault.

Accordingly, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of this bill. We ask that the committee **PASS** H.B. 344.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Testimony in support of H.R. 344

My name is Rosie Carrillo, I have been the secretary for the Children's Justice on Kauai for 12 years.

I have seen many changes and advances in our Sex Assault Response Teams that were created to protect our children and all sex assault victims in Hawaii.

One of the most important and crucial component is our SART/SANE program.

From the time a child sex abuse is reported a team of individuals are put into motion. The Sex Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) nurses are a part of this team.

The SANE have made a profound difference in the quality of care provided to sexual assault victims.

With our SANE programs, it becomes possible for sexual assault victims to consistently receive prompt and compassionate emergency care from medical professionals who understand victimization issues (e.g., SANEs recognize that the majority of victims are assaulted by intimate partners or acquaintances). A SANE can speed up the evidentiary examination process by reducing the time victims have to wait in a hospital's emergency department and the time it takes to complete the examination. The quality of the examination is usually improved because an experienced SANE is adept at identifying physical trauma and psychological needs, ensuring that victims receive appropriate medical care, knowing what evidence to look for and how to document injuries and other forensic evidence, and providing necessary referrals. Evidence collected by SANEs can help link the victim and suspect to the crime scene, indicate sexual penetration or activity, and establish lack of victim consent (e.g., bumps on the back of the head, abrasions on the back, and nongenital bruising). Establishing lack of consent is particularly important in the prosecution of nonstranger cases.

HSART provides support and funds to keep the SANE trained in all current and standardized procedures and guidelines. Without HSART our victims services we risk a decline in quality services and may create each island vacillate from policy, guidelines, and needed services. Recognizing the horror of sexual assault and the devastation it can cause victims and their families, SANEs ultimately strive to ensure that victims are not retraumatized by the evidentiary exam and to facilitate the healing process

I want to recognize and thank Rep. Derek Kawakami for his commitment and work in acknowledging the importance of our children and all sex assault victims. His introduction of Bill H.R. 344 will address the need to support our HSART and SANE. But mostly it directly impacts the lives of our children who cannot speak for themselves.

Our children have the right to receive the same quality of care that is provided nationally.

This Bill will provide the services and care they deserve and we as a community owe it to them. They are Hawaii's greatest assets; please help us care for them in their time of crisis.

I respectfully urge you to support Bill H.R. 344.

Rosie Carrillo

Children's Justice Center of Kauai

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

Comments:

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer antony	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello, my name is Jennifer Antony. I am a Registered Nurse specializing in Forensics. I work as the coordinator for the sexual assault program out of the Kauai Police Dept. I work with victims of sexual assault, providing compassionate medical care and collecting forensic evidence. Last year we lost funding for the Hawaii State Sexual Assault Response Training Team (HSART), a collective group of Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Victim Advocates, Medical/Forensic doctors and nurses representing all the islands. HSART is important as it is the statewide group that sets standards, policies, guidelines, provides trainings and support services to the individual islands. HSART is the glue that ensures all the agencies on the islands are inline and cohesive. Without HSART, we risk losing the quality of care, integrity of services and support that we have all worked many years to achieve. Please, support HB344. Respectfully, Jennifer Antony, RN,CFN,SANE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mark hubbard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill in order to retain the high quality forensic support needed for victims of sexual assault. Thank you.

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ywca



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DATE: February 10, 2015

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Renae Hamilton, Executive Director
YWCA of Kaua`i

RE: Comments Relating to House Bill 344
Relating to Sexual Assault Treatment Services

Aloha Honorable Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Judiciary Committee I would like to thank the committee to provide comments relating to H.B. 344 on behalf of the Sexual Assault Treatment Program, which has been a program at the YWCA for over 20 years.

My comments are focused on making the distinction between H.B. 344 and H.B. 452 which are being heard by the committee today. These two bills seek to provide resources for two separate programs addressing sexual assault. H.B. seems to be focused on funding the work of Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training (HSART) program. which is a statewide network of prosecutors', police departments, sexual assault service providers, medical/forensic services and crime lab personnel. This network has been working for quite a few years to create, implement, support and review standards of care in all areas relating to the crime of sexual assault.

The YWCA of Kaua`i has actively participated in HSART from its inception and the value of HSART cannot be understated. Perhaps, designating H.B. 344 as funding for the cost of HSART alone would help alleviate any confusion with H.B. 452 which addresses direct services and technical support.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.





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

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DATE: February 10, 2015

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: Comments Regarding H.B. 344
Relating to Sexual Assault Treatment Services

I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide commentary on behalf of The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (the SATC), a program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), with regard to House Bill 344 (H.B. 344).

The purposes of our comments are to:

- 1) Distinguish between H.B. 344 and H.B. 452, which are both under consideration by this committee today.
- 2) Suggest amendment to H.B. 344, consistent with program costs.

This committee is considering two different funding bills related to sexual assault this afternoon: H.B. 344 and H.B. 452. Despite their similar names and amounts sought, these two bills seek to fund two separate and distinct programs addressing sexual assault through the Department of the Attorney General (AG).

It is our understanding that the intent of H.B. 344 is to fund the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Response and Training (HSART) program. This is a statewide consultative partnership between the AG, prosecutors' offices, police departments, sexual assault centers, medical/forensic examiners, and the Honolulu Police Department-Scientific Investigation Section to coordinate and standardize the handling of sexual assault **medical-legal cases**.

By contrast, H.B. 452 funds statewide sexual assault **treatment, prevention and education services**. These services are delivered by a network of sexual assault centers across the islands through a Master Contract between the AG and KMCWC. The SATC has submitted testimony in strong support of H.B. 452, which this committee is also hearing today.

The SATC has been actively engaged in the HSART Program for many years and can attest to its accomplishments in statewide medical-legal coordination and standardization. Unfortunately, a 2014 request by the AG for supplemental funds to cover the program was declined, and the HSART Program ended. H.B. 344 would allow the HSART Program to resume its activities.

If it is the intent of the legislature to fund the HSART Program, the amount requested in H.B. 344 can be amended to accurately reflect the program's yearly cost, which is approximately \$132,000. This funds one full time HSART coordinator and the program's operational expenses, including sexual assault evidence collection kits for Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island Counties.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of these comments, distinguishing between H.B. 344's funding for the HSART Program and H.B. 452's funding for the AG's Master Contract for Statewide Sexual Assault Services, and suggesting amendment to H.B. 344 consistent with HSART's program costs.

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Date: February 9, 2015

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Kathleen McGilvray, Chief Executive Officer
Lorraine Davis, Chief Operating Officer
YWCA of Hawaii Island

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 344
Relating to Statewide Sexual Assault Services

I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide commentary on behalf of the YWCA of Hawaii Island's Sexual Assault Support Services program, with regard to House Bill 344 (H.B. 344).

The purposes of our comments are to:

- 1) Distinguish between H.B. 344 and H.B. 452, which are both under consideration by this committee today.
- 2) Suggest amendment to H.B. 344, consistent with program costs.

This committee is considering two different funding bills related to sexual assault this afternoon: H.B. 344 and H.B. 452. Despite their similar names and amounts sought, these two bills seek to fund two separate and distinct programs addressing sexual assault through the Department of the Attorney General (AG).

It is our understanding that the intent of H.B. 344 is to fund the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Response and Training (HSART) program. This is a statewide consultative partnership between the AG, prosecutors' offices, police departments, sexual abuse centers (including the YWCA of Hawaii Island), medical/forensic providers (also represented by the YWCA of Hawaii Island), and the crime lab to coordinate and standardize the handling of sexual assault *medical-legal cases*.

By contrast, H.B. 452 funds statewide sexual assault treatment, prevention and education services. These services are delivered by a network of sexual assault centers across the islands through a Master Contract between the AG and Kapi'olani Medical Center for

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Women and Children. The YWCA of Hawaii Island has submitted testimony in strong support of H.B. 452, which this committee is also hearing today.

The YWCA of Hawaii Island has been actively engaged in the HSART program for many years. We used the opportunities provided by this group to come to agreement in standardized care for victims and their families throughout the entire healing process, beginning with the initial investigation and ending with prosecution or closure for the sex assault victim. Therefore, we can attest to the great appreciation felt by all of the participants for its successful support of coordinated, consistent handling of sexual assault medical-legal cases. Unfortunately, the HSART program could not be staffed or conduct meetings and trainings during the last year, as a 2014 request by the AG for supplemental funds to cover the program was declined. H.B. 344 would allow the HSART program to resume its activities. We fully endorse the reinstatement of the HSART group.

In consultation with SATC, the YWCA of Hawaii Island respectfully recommends that the amount requested in H.B. 344 be amended to accurately reflect the HSART program's yearly cost, which is approximately \$132,000. This funds one full time HSART coordinator and the program's operational expenses and activities, including sexual assault evidence collection kits for Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island Counties.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of these comments, distinguishing between H.B. 344's funding for the HSART program and H.B. 452's funding for the AG's Master Contract for Statewide Sexual Assault Services, and suggesting amendment to H.B. 344 consistent with HSART's program costs.

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