

SB 2203

Measure Title: RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS.

Report Title: Sexual Assault; Forensic Examinations

Description: Requires DHS to pay for forensic examinations performed at a hospital of a female sexual assault victim, where private insurance is or cannot be utilized.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): ESPERO, BAKER, GALUTERIA, INOUYE, NISHIHARA, Shimabukuro, Slom

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

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Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON SB 2203
RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

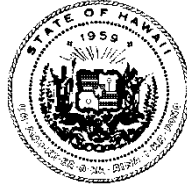
Thursday, February 4, 2016; 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Good afternoon Chairs Chun Oakland and Baker, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kidani and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health. Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (the "Commission") with the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of Senate Bill 2872 relating to Sexual Assault Victims which proposes that the Department of Human Services pay for forensic examinations not covered by private health insurance.

The Commission was established in 1967 to mitigate the suffering and financial impact experienced by victims of violent crime by providing compensation to pay un-reimbursed crime-related expenses. Many victims of violent crime could not afford to pay their medical bills, receive needed mental health or rehabilitative services, or bury a loved one if compensation were not available from the Commission.

Victims of sexual assault, whether male or female, should not have to bear the financial burden of their victimization. Unfortunately, this is not an expense that the Commission can provide compensation for under its statute. However, currently, victims of sexual assault in Hawai'i do not bear the cost of the forensic sexual assault examination and this should not change.

Thank you for providing the Commission with the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of Senate Bill 2203.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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February 4, 2016

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2203 - RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 4, 2016; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides comments and defers to County governments who provide funds for these examinations in their respective counties.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require DHS to pay for forensic examinations of a female sexual assault victim performed at a hospital, where private insurance is or cannot be utilized.

DHS understands that sexual assault victims, which include both females and males, requiring forensic examinations do not pay for forensic examinations performed at a hospital in response to a report of sexual assault. The forensic procedure is primarily a law enforcement protocol to preserve evidence for prosecution, the cost of which is not billed to the victim nor to insurance.

County law enforcement agencies receive a variety of funds, including grants through the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), to pay for these forensic procedures. This kind of program appears to be beyond the mission of DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2203 on Feb 4, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:03:04 PM

SB2203

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Feb 4, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

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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