

SB2232

Measure Title: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Report Title: Education; Sexual Abuse Prevention; Erin's Law

Description: Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's law.

Companion: [HB1782](#)

Package: Keiki Caucus

Current Referral: EDU, JDL/WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, RUDERMAN, SHIMABUKURO, Galuteria, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, Kim, L. Thielen



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

Date: 02/03/2016
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2232 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's law.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SB 2232. However, the Department strongly recommends the convening of an Erin's Law task force prior to passage of any legislation to mandate or implement child abuse prevention education in Hawaii's public schools. We respectfully offer and prefer the language in SB 2235 which establishes and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to be convened by the legislature. The Department is open to working with stakeholders to review other states' implementation, cost implications, and report recommendations to 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: SB 2232 Relating to Education
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
TIME: 1:15 PM
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Comments only for SB2232

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding Senate Bill 2232, "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 related bill SB2235, 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.



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

February 2, 2016

TO: Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

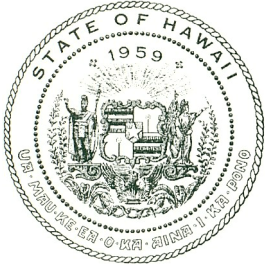
SUBJECT: SB 2232 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's law.

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 in the prevention of sexual abuse. Prior to passing legislation which mandates education in the area of child abuse prevention for public school students in grades pre-kindergarten to twelve, EOEL recommends assembling a task force who would be charged with reviewing current policies, programs and curricula and responsible for submitting a report of recommendations to the legislature. We respectfully offer the language included in SB 2235 which appropriates funds for the establishment of the Erin's Law 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

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
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235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
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February 3, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB 2232, Relating to Education

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2232, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of SB 2232, which would mandate 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 people being resistant 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.

The Commission supports SB 2232 and respectfully requests that this Committee pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: susan.wurtzburg@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:33:21 PM

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, 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
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:41:52 PM

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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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 1, 2016

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2232 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2232 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).

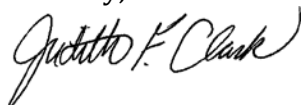
Children who have received education about sexual abuse are better able to recognize it, to escape from potentially dangerous situations, and more likely to report sexual abuse when it occurs.

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 were supposed to obey his instructions. Our parents believed that those instructions 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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 3, 2016

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

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

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2232
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports S.B. 2232, which establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools, sets guidelines for instruction, and is modeled after Erin's law.

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 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 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.

S.B. 2232 would be a positive step towards ensuring system wide sexual abuse prevention education, by requiring that, by law, all public schools shall establish a program for students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:48:54 AM

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Great idea.. one question: will parents be allowed to refuse? If so, what other things in public education can they refuse?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: lalehk@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 4:12:59 PM
Attachments: [testimony.docx](#)

SB2232

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laleh kazemahvazi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear members of the senate

I am for this bill. Our youth need to be educated on that it is OK to speak up and it is not their fault what they have been subjected to. Our children should be protected and predators need to be put behind bars. Our children are vulnerable and we need to do everything we can to make sure that our society is a safe place for them to live

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 7:11:53 AM

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB2232 as it would require a program in public schools to prevent sexual abuse of children. Obviously this is a goal we all can agree upon. It may have opponents who do not want any talk of sex to children. The model, Erin's Law has been passed in a range of states including Alabama and Texas. So surely we are not as puritanical as they are. We can make this happen.

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