



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

Date: 02/13/2017
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0836 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Allows the department of education to offer voluntary training for teachers and educational officers on sex trafficking prevention. Requires the department to provide explanatory information about sex trafficking prevention and response to teachers and educational officers.

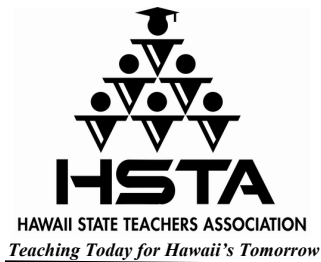
Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education appreciates the intent of SB 836 to offer voluntary training for teachers and educational officers on sex trafficking prevention including explanatory information.

The Department is open to working with stakeholders who provide sex trafficking prevention training for educators.

Currently, some complex areas and individual schools are engaged in voluntary staff training with regard to sex trafficking prevention with the Sex Abuse Treatment Center and Ho'ola Na Pua.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 836.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 836 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 836**, relating to education.

Schools are, perhaps, the main social institution outside of the family in which children have constant contact with adults and their peers. It is an optimal place, then, to identify children in danger of sexual maltreatment.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. Yet, studies have shown that up to 81 percent of teachers receive little preservice information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given inservice (on the job) information. While programs currently exist to train teachers and staff in handling sexual trauma that often accompanies abuse and neglect, implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important for teachers to be informed on how to prevent sexual trauma and handle related incidents on campus. At a time when the number of sex trafficking victims being identified in our state's childcare and education systems is on the rise, anti-trafficking lessons are especially crucial to combat student exploitation and effectively implement new protocols coordinated by the Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family Courts.

Sex trafficking is differentially defined as the use of "force, fraud, or coercion" to compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who *should* be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the

streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com. The average age of a victim's entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of "solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks" (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual abuse, so must we safeguard against the related crime of sex trafficking and provide educators with the tools needed to provide trauma-informed care in their classrooms.

To protect our keiki from sexual exploitation, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



1431 Ehupua St. Honolulu, HI 96821 · (808) 854-1148

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY—SB 836, Relating to Education

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kidani and committee members,

Hawai'i is home to over 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments, with the average age a victim is first exploited being only 13-years-old. We are also a target for “cybertrafficking,” with over 110,000 ads for local prostitution posted online each year. Yet, the numbers fail to fully capture the human toll of the commercial sex trade, a tragedy we witness each day in the eyes of the survivors we serve.

UNITE is an educational nonprofit devoted to ending sex trafficking in Hawai'i, created by Miss Hawai'i 2015 Jeanné Kapela. Through outreach and awareness in local schools, we provide students with the skills necessary to prevent exploitation by building healthy relationships and learning communities. Our program, “It Ends With Us,” explains how trafficking works in the 21st Century, preparing students to recognize threatening situations and respond to potential abuse. To date, we have provided anti-trafficking education to thousands of keiki in our state’s public schools. Working with UNITE’s strategic partner, IMUAlliance, we have also helped to emancipate sex trafficking victims from local brothels in the Ala Moana area. For both victims who self-identify at schools we visit and those for whom we’ve provided direct intervention services, sexual abuse is often noted as a precursor to sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking is the compulsion of a person into prostitution by force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers often use intermediate and high school students to build their fortunes, preying upon teenage insecurities, sexual impulses, socioeconomic impoverishment, and, more recently, social media access to recruit, groom, and “break in” our youth for the sex trade. Victims of sex trafficking are highly traumatized to the point that they lose their sense of identity, sometimes becoming so dehumanized that they can no longer understand the concept of rape. Moreover, modern technology has made it easier to reach and threaten victims, as information is readily available on the internet. Online technology can also be weaponized to humiliate individuals through the rapid distribution of nonconsensual pornography.

UNITE employs a standards-based anti-trafficking curriculum that includes a post assessment and service learning component. At each school we visit, students have identified themselves or their peers as in danger or in the midst of being trafficked. Our model is under constant revision to maximize its compliance with best educational practices and newly enacted education policies, is overseen by professional educators and education specialists, and comports with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 836, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair**

**Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 836, relating to education.

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often hovering around public school campuses to target our children. Traffickers are experts in observing and selecting their victims, and often infiltrate public schools by using students to recruit their peers. One of the largest child sex trafficking rings discovered on Hawai'i's shores was unearthed in 2014. It included 16 students, most whom were students at Mililani High School and Moanalua High School, two of our state's top performing schools. Currently, IMUAlliance is involved in investigations at seven schools facing trafficking problems, all of which were initiated this year.

We are one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention services to 130 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims in total. We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach. Teachers, in turn, frequently request

information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state's prolific slave trade. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. The Average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation is 13-years-old, with 60 percent of sex trafficked children being under the age of 16. Approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments are operational in Hawai'i. An estimated 1,500-2,500 women and children are victimized by sex traffickers in our state annually. Over 110,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, a number that has *not* decreased with the recent shuttering of Backpage.com's "adult services" section. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home.

With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent of report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence as such. As one underage victim—now a survivor—told IMUAlliance prior to being rescued, "I can't be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I'm a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it."

To stop slavery in Hawai'i, we must prevent victimization before it begins by training teachers to respond to signs of sex trafficking. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



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