



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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Testimony in OPPOSITION to SCR 136
ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND JUDICIARY TO INCORPORATE RESEARCH AND
STRATEGIES REGARDING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES INTO
THEIR WORK WITH CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Hearing Date: March 29, 2017, 2:45 PM Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined but largely duplicative staff time and effort.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes the proposal to submit
3 a report on incorporating adverse childhood experiences strategies as a duplicative effort, and
4 requests exclusion from SCR136. For over a decade, the Department has provided evidence-
5 based treatment to children suffering from trauma and adverse childhood experiences.
6 Department findings and recommendations are submitted to the Legislature and community
7 stakeholders through biennial reports and quadrennial strategic plans.

8 The Department of Health has been utilizing a Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) approach in our
9 work for many years and has trained, and continues to train, staff, contracted providers, and
10 workers in the larger child-serving system, focusing on helping them understand the impact of
11 traumatic life experiences on children. These trainings and briefings have included Family Court
12 judges, probation officers, correctional officers at the Detention Home and Hawaii Youth
13 Correctional Facility, Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services staff, Department
14 of Education School-Based Behavioral Health Staff, and non-profit agency staff.

1 As the results of the original Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study have become more
2 well-known, the Department has progressively integrated more of this information into our
3 routine practice. Most recently, the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD)
4 adopted a new template for initial mental health evaluations that includes asking about these
5 experiences and calculating an ACE score on each child admitted to services.

6 In 2006, the Department used a federal grant to develop specialized direct services for girls ages
7 11-21 who experienced significant trauma in their lives. The treatment services included
8 Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Girls Circle and Trauma-Informed Care, which
9 are designed to help these girls remain at home, in school, out of trouble, and leading balanced,
10 connected and responsible lives in the community. All services were trauma-informed and
11 gender-specific. The federal grant also allowed the Department to sponsor two year-long
12 Learning Collaboratives on “Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy.” The Collaboratives
13 included state and non-profit organization staff and each Collaborative trained at least 30
14 therapists in this well-validated treatment approach.

15 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division standards for Mental Health Evaluations
16 include a requirement that every initial assessment must include a trauma screening instrument
17 such as the UCLA PTSD Index. This standard applies to all contracted evaluations and to those
18 performed by CAMHD psychologists.

19 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division instituted a policy regarding seclusion and
20 restraint that is based on the principles of trauma-informed care. The Department conducted
21 extensive trainings extensively on this topic. Safety planning regarding a person’s triggers,
22 warning signs, preferred ways of calming down, etc. is a regular part of the Department’s
23 treatment planning process.

24 The Department annually co-sponsors the IVAT (Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma)
25 “Hawaii Conference on the Prevention, Assessment and Treatment of Trauma” – a three day
26 event with a variety of offerings for providers at all levels of expertise.

- 1 Because of this decade-long work to incorporate an understanding of trauma into mental health
- 2 and children's services at all levels, as well as findings and recommendations that are published
- 3 in reports to the Legislature, the Department respectfully requests exclusion from this resolution.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/29/2017

Time: 02:45 PM

Location: 016

Committee: Senate Human Services
Senate Judiciary and Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 136 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND JUDICIARY TO INCORPORATE RESEARCH AND STRATEGIES REGARDING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES INTO THEIR WORK WITH CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 136. Adverse childhood experiences can harm students' ability to learn and negatively impact their academic achievement.

The Department is actively developing plans and exploring ways to incorporate research-based strategies and trauma-informed practices to address adverse childhood experiences into its approach to educating students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 136.



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

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 136/SENATE
RESOLUTION 57, ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND JUDICIARY TO
INCORPORATE RESEARCH AND STRATEGIES REGARDING ADVERSE
CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES INTO THEIR WORK WITH CHILDREN
SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA**

**Senate Committee on Human Services
Hon. Josh Green, Chair
Hon. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

Honorable Chair Green, Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 support of SCR 136/SR57, encouraging the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of the Attorney General, and Judiciary to incorporate research and strategies regarding adverse childhood experiences into their work with children suffering from trauma.

IMUAlliance is one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. 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.

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 incorporate evidence-based, trauma-informed practices and training into all agencies that work with at-risk or victimized children. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



Memorandum of Support SCR 136

Melanie Blow
Chief Operations Officer
Stop Abuse Campaign
Melanie.Blow@stopabusecampaign.org
(585) 315-6480

The Stop Abuse Campaign is dedicated to preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences, and we urge the Senate to pass SCR 136.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences study is often hailed as the most significant public health study of the late 20th century. It helps answer significant questions about the origins of poverty, mental illness, disease and disability. The biggest reason it has not lived up to its promise of reducing these issues is because it is poorly known by policy makers. Making this research understood by policy makers is the first step towards changing that, and this is why we urge you to support **SCR 136**.

The Adverse Childhood Experience study demonstrates that if we drastically change the way Child Protective Services, Family Courts, public schools, and other institutions operate, we can reap massive rewards from a society with less illness, crime, poverty, misery and lost potential. This resolution can pave the way for vital pieces of legislation like the Safe Child Act. Resolutions acknowledging this body of research are an important first step, and that is why supporting **SCR 136** is crucial to Hawaii's future.



Barry Goldstein
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March 27, 2017

Testimony in Support of SCR 136

I am the Director of Research for the Stop Abuse Campaign and have written some of the leading books concerning domestic violence and custody. I worked directly with Dr. Vincent Felitti who was the lead author of the original ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study in preparing an ACE chapter for my book *The Quincy Solution: Stop Domestic Violence and Save \$500 Billion*. You should be congratulated for sponsoring this ACE Resolution and I strongly support its passage.

We often compare the ACE Research to the Surgeon General's 1964 Study that linked cancer and smoking. Both studies could be depressing when you consider the enormous harm caused by tolerating smoking, domestic violence and child abuse, but it also provides a wonderful opportunity. Society used the Surgeon General's Report to change a variety of laws and practices and provide education in order to discourage smoking. This has saved millions of lives and trillions of dollars. Hawaii, and the nation as a whole are happier, healthier and wealthier because of the efforts to implement the scientific and medical findings in the Surgeon General's Report.

When you consider the full history of mankind, until very recently, behavior that we now would consider domestic violence and child abuse was both acceptable and legal. You may remember that some of the athletes who recently got in trouble for

domestic violence and child abuse claimed surprise that they did anything wrong as they were only repeating the actions they witnessed and experienced as children.

The fundamental findings of the ACE Research is that children exposed to domestic violence, child abuse and other trauma will live shorter lives and have a lifetime of health and social problems. As a society, we have tended to focus almost exclusively on physical assaults and the resultant physical injuries, but 99% of the harm is caused from living with the fear which causes the worst kind of stress. The courts in Hawaii, like the courts in every other state and virtually every country are not focusing on protecting the children from the non-physical wounds and therefore can do nothing to save the children.

Dr. Felitti emphasized that the best use of his research is prevention. The present level of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental illness, crime, substance abuse, suicide and many other health and social problems is based on our present level of domestic violence and child abuse. Just like with our response to the link between smoking and cancer, the ACE Research provides an exciting opportunity to make Hawaii healthier, wealthier, safer and happier and the benefits will be even greater than in 1964 because ACE covers a wider array of health and social problems. This resolution will promote these wonderful benefits.

As part of my research for the Quincy book I had a chance to interview medical professionals working with the ACE Research. I asked them the question that I believe should be most important in custody cases. When a child has been exposed to one or more ACEs, is there anything we can do now to save the child from the horrific consequences?

The answer is yes, but requires two responses. The first is that the children need therapy and treatment for any problems they are having and also to reduce the stress. This means the safe parent must be able to make all medical decisions because an abuser doesn't want the children in therapy where they might reveal his abuse. The second response requires children to be protected from abusers because they cannot heal if they continue to live in fear.

I appreciate that court officials would like to believe they are doing everything right, but the discussions based on the ACE Research are not happening in domestic violence custody cases. The outcomes routinely take away the children's last chance for a full and successful life. I must tell you my heart breaks every day when I hear these horrific stories in Hawaii and every other state.

The ACE Research provides an enormous opportunity for our children and for society. Thank you for doing the research and work to bring this opportunity to Hawaii. Only good things can come from integrating the ACE Research into standard practices.

Sincerely

Barry Goldstein

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:36 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: jusbecuz@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR136 on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM*

SCR136

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Yamamoto	National Family Advocacy Team	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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To: HMS Testimony
Cc: circeyee@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR136 on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM*

SCR136

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Circe Carr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:51 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: kalen.holbrook@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR136 on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM*

SCR136

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalen Holbrook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:32 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: natalie.speedracer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR136 on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM

SCR136

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
natalie speedracer	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: This is the backbone of a complete and smart strategy to educate and thus prevent serious trauma to children which will need to start somewhere since the family court is causing much more harm as directed by DHS. Education is necessary to understanding what is happening to our children as a result of ACES and finally a step towards stopping traumas and preventing them, for which DHS and family court are not. They are allowed to disregard HPD detectives confirmation of child sexual abuse and hand children back to the perp. If people can become educated with information that is available to show the numbers, the effects and the devastation that our aina and nation will soon face, we can have a chance to keep our keiki safe and have them grow up to be happy, healthy productive members of society rather than traumatized addicts, cancer patients, diabetics and so on. Knowledge is power and the children need voices and a chance to save the world.

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Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:19 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: gyats1@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR136 on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM

SCR136

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Guy Yatsushiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Important findings that should shape and guide future policy and practice.

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TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Human Services Committee Members

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate
881 Akiu Place
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 262-5223

DATE: March 29, 2017

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for SCR136/SR57

Good Afternoon Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members.

“Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.” — Edmund Burke

Edmund Burke's words could not be more relevant than when applied to the burden of childhood trauma. Thankfully the *Centers for Disease Control* recognized the correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the less-than-desirable impact they have enough to conduct a longitudinal study, the results of which have opened a door to not only understanding but rectifying the often lifelong and debilitating effects and consequences of childhood trauma.

Although **The Safe Child Act, HB697** (previously HB1701 in the 2016 legislative session) which puts the ACEs research into immediate, usable and workable form was resubmitted for consideration this 2017 legislative session, it failed to be assigned a hearing date and time for introduction so to see the precursor of the Safe Child Act be introduced as SCR136/SR57 is not only heartening but reconfirms and reaffirms the promise this research holds.

This past September, the author of The Safe Child Act - *Barry Goldstein* - and CEO of the Stop Abuse Campaign - *Andrew Willis* - traveled to Hawaii to meet and speak with as many local community stakeholders and legislators as they could about the exciting prospects of the ACEs research in the form of The Safe Child Act. The most exciting part of the meetings was watching people's faces light up and seeing the enthusiasm generated when the potential of the research and The Safe Child Act was realized.

As a survivor of both child abuse and domestic violence, let me assure you that my pursuit towards ending both has been a lifelong commitment (and between the two, the consequences of the violence and abuse I experienced as a child far outweigh and exceed the repercussions of violence and abuse I experienced as a wife and mother).

As a professional, whose entire career has been dedicated towards the study, correction, and eradication of abuse, what the ACEs Study provides us is what I consider "the gold standard".

Failure to implement and to not take advantage of the gathered and cumulative wisdom that the ACEs Study puts forth would not only be short-sighted and foolish but dooms future generations (to include those not directly affected by ACEs) to repeat a painful, costly, unnecessary, preventable and correctable legacy. For this consideration and for all the reasons spelled out in SCR136/SR57, I humbly urge you to either support and pass this measure and/or take the next practical and ready-made/ready-for-action step of implementing **The Safe Child Act**.

Thank you most sincerely for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR136/SR57.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.

Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:07 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR136 on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM

SCR136

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/JDL on Mar 29, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Great idea. Lots of reasons for this bill and helping keiki. Issue again, who pays for the ideas and time?

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