

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 12, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2155 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 10:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill and provides comments. DHS respectfully defers to the Department of Education regarding administrative and operational resources to support the task force.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to create and appropriate funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

The DHS works collaboratively with the Department of Education (DOE) to prevent child sex abuse, and serves as a resource to the DOE. CWS began working with DOE last year on reviewing and evaluating sex trafficking education/prevention presentations by non-profit organizations in the schools. DHS will work on the task force if formed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

**Date:** 02/13/2018  
**Time:** 10:15 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Committee:** House Health and Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2155 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula. Appropriation.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2155 and recognizes the important role of public education in child sexual abuse prevention. In doing so, the Department provides comments, suggested amendments, and a funding request.

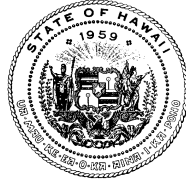
Most notably, with regards to the current measure's expansion to include sex trafficking, the Department strongly urges this Committee to restrict the subject matter to sexual abuse prevention, the focus of Erin's Law.

Further, given the expansive composition of this proposed task force and the importance of educator representation, the Department would recommend an elementary teacher and a secondary teacher designated by the Hawaii State Teacher's Association to be added to ensure K-12 expertise.

Lastly, the expending agency for the appropriation has been designated as the Department of Education. The Department is appreciative of the Legislature's consideration of an appropriation, as long as it is supportive of a two-year task force, and that the implementation of HB 2155 would not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Board of Education-approved budget. The Department estimates \$50,000 is necessary in each year of the fiscal biennium to support task force operations and activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2155.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2155  
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 13, 2018

Room Number: Room 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications for the Department of Health (DOH).

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on H.B. 2155. The  
3 measure establishes a task force to guide establishment of a sexual abuse prevention education  
4 program for public school students, teachers and staff, as well as parents. The Department of  
5 Health is willing to participate on the proposed task force.

6 The 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported about 12.7% of Hawaii high school students were  
7 forced into sexual acts in the last twelve months. The data also shows about 17% of middle school  
8 males and females experienced dating sexual violence, while 8.9% of high school males and 15.4%  
9 of high school females experienced dating sexual violence. An estimated 5% of middle and 10.9%  
10 of high school females reported having experienced forced sexual intercourse. The survey does  
11 not track other forms of sexual victimization including sexual harassment, exposure, and fondling.

12 The DOH, Maternal and Child Health Branch (MCHB), Sexual Violence Prevention Program  
13 contracts with the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children's Sex Abuse Treatment  
14 Center (SATC) to provide evidence-informed sexual violence prevention (SVP) curricula training  
15 and youth education session and presentations for selected middle and high schools in Hawaii.  
16 The Department of Education (DOE) approved SATC's curriculum as an option for fulfilling  
17 certain health education requirements for K-5 and grades 9-12.

1 MCHB also contracts with the Hawaii Family Law Clinic to implement the Coaching Boys Into  
2 Men (CBIM) program in Hawaii's high schools. The Centers for Disease Control recognizes CBIM  
3 as an effective and promising sexual violence prevention program that uses the relationships between  
4 high school male athletes and their coaches to change social norms and behaviors.

5 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

6 **Offered Amendments: None.**

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY ON HB 2155 RELATING TO EDUCATION - COMMENTS**

**Hearing: February 13, 2018, 10:15 am, CR 329**

Thank you for allowing us to comment on **House Bill 2155**, which creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula. ***While passing this bill would be step in the right direction, our strong support is for full adoption and implementation of Erin's Law as written in HB 2430.***

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. This bill supports the mental health of Hawaii's youth by giving them the knowledge and skills to help prevent sexual abuse.

Childhood sexual abuse has serious immediate and lasting mental health implications which can have detrimental effects on victim's lives. The impact of child sexual abuse includes: fear, shame, sense of helplessness, loss of self-esteem, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, social phobia, eating disorders, substance use and difficulties with relationships.<sup>1</sup> The risk for suicidal thoughts increases for both male and female victims of child sex abuse.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, victims of child sex abuse are more than twice as likely as non-victims to report a suicide attempt.<sup>2</sup>

In Hawai'i, over 50% of victims served at The Sex Abuse Treatment Center are under age 17 at the time of the abuse.<sup>3</sup> Nationally, law enforcement agencies report that 67% of sexual assault victims were under 18 years of age, 34% were under 12 years of age, and 14% were six years old or younger.<sup>4</sup> These alarming statistics combined with the mental health implications of childhood sexual abuse outlined in recent studies calls for an urgent effort to raise awareness as well as educate both children and adults in how to prevent the abuse of children which would be accomplished by adopting and implementing Erin's Law rather than a task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. Please contact me at [trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org) or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

<sup>1</sup> Springer, K., Sheridan, J., Kuo, D., & Carnes, M. (2003). The long-term health outcomes of childhood abuse: An overview and a call to action. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 18(10): 864-870.

<sup>2</sup> Darkness To Light ([www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org))

<sup>3</sup> The Sex Abuse Treatment Center ([satchawaii.com](http://satchawaii.com))

<sup>4</sup> Snyder, H. (2000). Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics. Washington, DC: US. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.



February 13, 2018

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services

RE: HB 2155 Relating to Education  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 10:15 a.m., Room 329

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of HB 2155 Relating to Education. 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.

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 31 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 Erin Merryn, an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention and education.

Especially with our current knowledge of numerous elite athletes being sexually abused as children, it is clear that Hawai'i must ensure that every student in a State school receives the education needed to prevent sexual violence and to protect themselves, and to engage parents, guardians, teachers and school staff in building a system for appropriately responding to sexual violence.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. We ask the committee to pass this bill and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, 10:15 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 2155

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of H.B. 2155. PPVNH supports policies and programs that work to stem the sexual assault epidemic, including education and training on sex abuse prevention. Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawai‘i.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in the United States will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old. This is consistent with our local experience: more than half of the many thousands of survivors on O‘ahu that have historically received services from the Sex Abuse Treatment Center were younger than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted.

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.

Despite these combined efforts, it is our understanding that implementation of sexual abuse prevention education is not consistent system wide, and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Moreover, school administrators can also be hesitant to adopt programs for training and education concerning issues of sexual violence against children. Consequently, students in Hawai‘i may not receive regular, consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention.

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 31 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 Erin Merryn, an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention and education.

PPVNH also strongly supports including Planned Parenthood as a member of the task force. Our experience working with the Department of Education (“DOE”) to implement a sexual health education program pursuant to the Hawaii State Board of Education Policy 103.5 and our knowledge of that program will greatly benefit the task force in its development of a sexual abuse prevention program, as these programs may overlap in some areas. For example, BOE Policy 103.5 requires sexual health education programs to help students “develop relationships and communication skills to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion and intimidation.” Including on the task force members who are knowledgeable and experienced with the sexual health

education program will ensure that both programs complement each other going forward and better ensure that youth have the skills and tools to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Now it is Hawai'i's moment to ensure that every student in a DOE school receives the education needed to prevent sexual violence and protect themselves, and to engage parents, guardians, teachers and school staff in building a system for appropriately responding to sexual violence.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Temple Field  
Hawaii Legislative Director



eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

O'ahu

**Fernhurst YWCA**  
1566 Wilder Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
808.941.2231

**Kokokahi YWCA**  
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive  
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744  
808.247.2124

**Laniākea YWCA**  
1040 Richards Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 10:15AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329

Re: Testimony in support of H.B 2155, relating to education

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in **support of HB 2155**, relating to education.

In the United States, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are sexually abused before the age of 18. We know the problem is pervasive and we need a solution that will give children and young people the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves against sexual violence and obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible.

The trauma from sexual abuse stays with a person throughout their life. As a community, we witness the impact on our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. We know women in jail and prison are more likely to have experienced sexual abuse over their lifetime. From the work YWCA O'ahu does with justice-involved women, we see how the pain from that early trauma continues to haunt their lives.

Educating children and young people on abuse prevention, and including their teachers, staff, and parents, is the best path towards preventing sexual abuse. Additionally, it also serves to empower individuals to speak up when abuse is occurring so it can end as quickly as possible.

We are seeing a national movement on sexual abuse prevention. Hawaii should join the 31 other states that have implemented a law requiring sexual abuse education in our Department of Education. We need to make sure children and young people have the tools necessary to know what they're experiencing, to name it, and feel empowered to report to a trusted adult.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I respectfully request that you please pass H.B 2155.

Kathleen Algire  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2155: Relating to Education

**TO:** Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Health & Human Services  
**FROM:** Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer  
**Hearing:** **Tuesday, 2/13/18; 10:15 am; CR 329**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members, Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB 2155, which appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to create recommendations to establish a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Our keiki deserve education that can protect them from harm.

Child sex abuse is a silent epidemic. Children rarely report abuse and are made to feel that the abuse was their fault. Sadly 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of this abuse before they are turn 18 years old. More than 42 million survivors of child sex abuse are now in the US. We must act now to educate children as well as school staff. It is critical to identify child victims early so that support can be provided to significantly reduce the likelihood of long-term adverse issues. The impact on children who endure this trauma can include: suicide, poor academic performance, dropping out of school, self-mutilation, PTSD, drug/alcohol abuse, increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships, cognitive deficits, depression, and dissociative symptoms.

We support implementation of this prevention program ASAP. We hope the Task Force would develop recommendations that include:

1. Child sex abuse prevention education to be taught in grades as early as pre-Kindergarten, through high school.
2. Giving children the tools to speak up and seek help.
3. Providing intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
4. Training school staff and faculty re: child sexual abuse prevention and how to handle disclosures of sexual abuse. Teachers who spend time daily with children should be able to recognize signs and be a safe place for children to talk about what they are experiencing.

It is time to take direct and strong action to protect our children and youth from this silent epidemic. We urge you to pass HB 2155. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org), if you have any questions.



# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of  
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action  
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

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

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 12, 2018

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2155 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2155 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).

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. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more until someone finally reported it to the school. When we were questioned about it, we believed that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, HYSN is working with the Public School System on a sexual health education and positive youth development program. Last year, several sixth grade students who had completed a sex education curriculum reported to school staff that they were being sexually abused. Because of the education they received, they recognized that what was happening to them was abuse; understood that they did not have to allow it to happen; felt empowered to report it; and had trusted adults at the school with whom they could discuss it. While it is very sad that the children were abused, it is wonderful that they are receiving the help they need to end the abuse.

No child deserves sexual abuse, and prevention education in the schools is a powerful tool to prevent it. Fortunately, Hawaii has many of the resources needed to provide education to prevent sexual abuse including a culturally relevant curriculum developed by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center that is already in use in some public schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



February 11, 2018

To: Hawai'i State House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (10:15 am)  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 329  
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –  
Hawai'i in **SUPPORT of S.B. 2155**, relating to education

Dear Representative John Mizuno (Chair), Representative Bertrand Kobayashi (Vice Chair), and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 2155**, relating to an educational task force covering the topic of child sexual abuse.

My testimony is on behalf of the approximately 400 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawai'i, who list family violence as an important current concern. My testimony is informed by many years of teaching about this type of violence in courses at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. In one of my courses, in another state, a student spoke strongly in the classroom and in the state for the rights of children who had been sexually abused, and for the importance of education on this topic, directed toward children in the educational system. In Hawai'i, we have similar strong advocates speaking on behalf of sexually abused children, and desiring to organize a state task force. Please, listen to them!

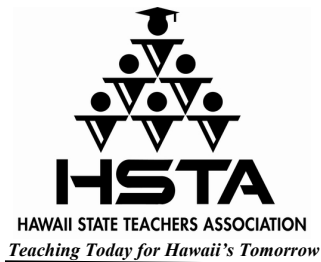
Currently, only some schools provide any education about child sexual abuse to students and their families. Children deserve consistent education on this topic, no matter where they are educated in Hawai'i. This problem is found across the state, and it is not appropriate that education about its prevalence, identification, and reporting is not found across the state. All schools need to be implementing these important educational modules into their curriculums. It would be helpful to have a task force meet and consider research, and best practices in providing education on this topic, while moving toward implementation of such education in Hawai'i.

In conclusion, passage of S.B. 2155 is an important step in considering how to improve education in Hawai'i, and ultimately better child health outcomes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

*Susan J. Wurtzburg*

Ph.D., Policy Chair



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
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Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Justin Hughey  
Vice President  
Amy Perruso  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RE: HB 2155 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2155**, relating to education.

Schools are, perhaps, the one 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 abuse and exploitation.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their children. 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. Currently, programs exist, in Hawai'i, to train teachers and staff about abuse indicators and provide prevention education to students, but the programs are inadequately trauma-informed, implementation is woefully inconsistent, and educators are often unaware of what support services are available when a student is suspected of abuse or exploitation.

It is important that both teachers and students be informed on how to prevent sexual abuse and respond when it occurs. To protect our keiki from sexual exploitation, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**TO:** Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** February 13, 2018; 10:15 a.m., Conference Room 329

**RE: TESTIMONY FOR HB 2155 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**We support the intent of HB 2155 – Relating to education, however we ask you to consider full implementation of Erin's Law as described in SB 2368.**

**The statistics are daunting:**

- 1 in 4 girls will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 5 youth receive a sexual approach or solicitation over the internet.
- The average age for first abuse is 9.6 years of age.
- Only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to police.
- 29% of forcible rapes occur when the victim was under 11 years of age.
- 44% of sexual abuse victims are under the age of 18.
- 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker.
- Our Children's Justice Center support over a 1,000 children each year. That's about 3 new children every day (which is still a fraction of all those who are impacted by sexual abuse).

This is a matter that is often kept silent and as a result if left unaddressed (most people do not even realize that this is a significant issue or that they are a victim). In almost every case, the only witnesses to this crime are the perpetrator and the victim. Perpetrators often tell the child this is a secret and no one will believe them. Children rarely report abuse and are meant to feel that the abuse was their fault. Most victims never tell anyone until several years after the abuse, if they ever tell at all.

**We feel that implementing age appropriate child sexual abuse training immediately, not just creating a task force, is the appropriate course.** Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. If we do not take strong measures to address the matters that impact child sexual abuse, this issue will continue to impact our community and will only negatively impact Hawai'i's future, people, keiki, communities, culture, economy, reputation, commerce, and industries. Let's put protection in place against those who take advantage of the most vulnerable, as they are the culprits and drivers of this criminal enterprise. This is cutting into the fabric of the Aloha State and is not acceptable here in Hawai'i.

The children who endure this traumatic sexual abuse have a long list of adverse issues. These issues include:

- Poor academic performance
- Dropping out of high school
- Self mutilation
- Persistent post traumatic stress disorder
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships
- Difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships
- Cognitive deficits
- Depression
- Dissociative symptoms
- Suicide

With the **full implementation of Erin's Law in place**, we can focus on prevention-oriented education that will empower victims and those who care for them. It is critical to educate students, educators and parents about how to recognize and identify child sexual abuse so that victims can be identified early and so that support can be put in place to significantly reduce the likelihood of the long-term adverse issues and costs of the above listed items.

We support the full implementation of Erin's Law because it will provide:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education for children in grades as early as pre-kindergarten through high school.
- Tools to help children speak up and seek help.
- Intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
- Training for school staff and faculty regarding child sexual abuse prevention and the handling of sexual abuse disclosures.
- Education for parents on how to recognize the signs, communicate with their children and seek help.



Erin's Law leverages the relationship between schools and the child. Schools are primary connections to our communities that also share strong relationships with our parents and keiki. It would only be natural that we take advantage of those trusting relationships to provide the services they need and further benefit from. The teachers who spend time with the students on a daily basis should be able to recognize signs of unhealthy influence and link resources to their families. Students may also feel more comfortable talking with a trusted teacher than their own caring parents due to the complicated circumstances that could exist. School personnel should no longer wonder out of suspicion or feel hopeless in attempts to help students in need. We strongly believe our time should be invested in direct action in order to provide students with the services they need, before they are further affected by the negative impacts of sexual abuse.

**31 States have passed Erin's Law, 18 states have introduced it, and only 1 is still in process. We would like to see Erin's Law implemented immediately and hope that you consider supporting the full implementation of the law through SB 2368.**

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **HB 2155**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

Executive Director  
Adriana Ramelli

Advisory Board

President  
Mimi Beams

Joanne H. Arizumi

Mark J. Bennett

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Josh Green, MD

David I. Haverly

Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Nadine Tenn Salle, MD

Deane Salter

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: February 13, 2018

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Justin Murakami, Policy Research Associate  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 2155  
Relating to Education

Good morning Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports H.B. 2155.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in the United States will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old. This is consistent with our local experience: more than half of the many thousands of survivors on Oahu that have historically received SATC's services were younger than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted.

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.

With funding from the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), SATC delivers training and education on four age-appropriate, evidence-informed curricula, designed for students in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, middle school, and high school, which were developed in partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) and teachers from both public and private schools, and rigorously evaluated to establish their effectiveness by Dr. Charlene Baker of the University of Hawaii. Our collaborations with DOH and with DOE schools resulted in the training of many teachers, counselors, and school administrators, and delivery of the curricula to students.

Despite these combined efforts, it is our understanding that implementation of sexual abuse prevention education is not consistent system wide, and resources

for the provision of training and education are limited. Moreover, school administrators can also be hesitant to adopt programs for training and education concerning issues of sexual violence against children. Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education, nor are parents informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on talking to students about, and responding to, child sexual abuse.

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 31 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 18 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 Erin Merryn, an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention and education.

Now it is Hawaii’s moment to ensure that every student in a DOE school receives the education needed to prevent sexual violence and protect themselves, and to engage parents, guardians, teachers, and school staff in building a system for appropriately responding to sexual violence.

We respectfully request that you pass H.B. 2155.



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

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## TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2155, RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hon. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Mizuno and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 2155, relating to education.

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often loitering 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 six 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, for which childhood sexual abuse is frequently a precursor. 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 and sexual abuse. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance



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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**TESTIMONY—HB 2155, Relating to Education**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

**Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Mizuno 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. 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.

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:17:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacey Moniz	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, on behalf of our member organizations statewide wishes to offer STRONG SUPPORT for HB2155. We support the important work being done by SATC to support survivors of sex assault and to help with prevention. Providing the opportunity in the schools opens an avenue for disclosure and education for children across the state. This is an important measure and we hope the state supports these efforts as well.



**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:18:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 2:11:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Belmear	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of Erin's Law. I work with survivors of sexual abuse and think that this type of education can help children.

Thank you.

-Natalie Belmear

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 6:54:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chari Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

**I strongly support HB2155.** It is absolutely vital that we require our public school systems to implement the curriculum that the DOE and Sex Abuse Treatment Center have produced for our keiki to learn how to prevent sexual abuse, how to recognize it when it is happening and where to report it and seeks services if abused. Teachers are mandated reporters and yet they do not receive required training that is adequate to prepare them for addressing this sensitive and complex issue. This does not support our teachers in succeeding in their job.

We know nationally that 25% of women and 17% of men are sexually abused before age 18. Sadly Hawaii had demonstrate no exception. Further, the Street Youth Study recently released by Waikiki Health Center noted that 77.5% of the homeless youth, ranging from age 12-24, had been emtionally, physically or sexually abused. The average age of homelessness in Hawaii for youth is age 14. These children are victims of abuse who believe that not living at home will be safer for them. We are failing to educate our keiki about prevention and support services, and we are failing to properly train teachers to identify signs of abuse and how to address it with the keiki who are experiencing it. This is unacceptable.

I urge you to pass HB2155 and ensure that all of our keiki and teachers in the public school system get education regarding sexual abuse, starting in kindergarten.

Thank you for your consideration in this important health matter.

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:04:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorena Grudier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because I work with children who have been sexually abused and have witnessed the impact it has had on their lives. Educating children about the dangers of sexual abuse/trafficking would prove beneficial because it would provide another preventative measure for children and their families.

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee on Health & Human Services members:

I am a survivor of childhood sex abuse and support HB 2155.

We need to protect our keiki by providing education on sexual abuse to our educators as well as keiki. The people who see our children almost every day should have the knowledge to possibly identify when a keiki is being abused and do what they can to reach out and protect the keiki from future abuse. Also, knowledge of what is appropriate touching by our keiki will empower them to know when they are being violated and tell someone they trust about it. I feel if I had this type of education growing up, I would have felt more comfortable telling my parents or a teacher of the sexual abuse by my half-brother. It could have helped me identify the grooming my half-brother did was wrong and inappropriate, and given me the words to voice what was happening to me.

Thank you very much,

Andre Bisquera

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 10:18:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 4:07:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
	Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 1:43:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorraine	YWCA of Hawaii Island	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 5:50:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rena Hamilton	YWCA of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

The YWCA of Kauai strongly supports H.B.2155, the keiki across the state deserves the opportunity to be educated about how to prevent sexual violence and protect themselves and their family and friends. By providing this in schools it will equip school staff and parents to with the knowledge and tools needed to better protect the students. Right now, sexual assault prevention education efforts are not standarized, on Kauai, the YWCA is the sole provider of prevention education services for the schools. Our efforts, while we reach a good number of students is not enough, a law that would require public school systems to implement a program of consistent sexual abuse prevention education would ensure that all students are provided with the information they need. Please support H.B. 2155, it will help our students.



Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 13, 2018

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 2155, Relating to Education**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 13, 2018, 10:15 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2155, which would create and appropriate funds for the Erin's Law Task Force to make recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age-appropriate curricula.**

Thirty-one states have enacted a model of "Erin's Law," named after a child abuse survivor and advocate Erin Merryn, which requires all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- Students in grades pre-K – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult;
- School personnel all about child sexual abuse;
- Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. It is critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from sexual abuse, and the creation of this Task Force is a positive first step.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that your committees vote to pass this bill.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*

**LATE**

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:27:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2155**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:17:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Garlock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Prevention and education is essential to help solve the issue of abuse and trafficking of children. Funding this Task Force will move things in the right direction.

Mahalo for your consideration.



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**LATE**

**DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**TIME: 10:15 a.m.**

**PLACE: Conference Room 329**

### **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2368 know as Erin's Law**

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members,

The Coalition continues to support this important piece legislation. Age-appropriate training for students, teachers and parents may well prevent the horrific abuse children have suffered, and continue to suffer, throughout our society. The Sex Assault Treatment Center (SATC) reports that **more than half** of the many thousands of survivors on Oahu that have historically received SATC's services were younger than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted.

Given the prevalence of this crime against humanity, and in the light of recent events concerning child gymnasts we owe it to the children, we owe it to our future, to do something to stop this epidemic. The Indy-Star reports, "At least 368 gymnasts have alleged some form of sexual abuse at the hands of their coaches, gym owners and other adults working in gymnastics. That's a rate of one every 20 days. And it's likely an undercount."

Our public schools can no longer occupy the role of bystanders complicit in silence with the perpetrators'. We must give teachers, parents and children, the tools to detect and prevent these acts aimed at degradation and control. We must all be upstanders. It's the least we can do.

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition

Contact: [annsfreed@gmail.com](mailto:annsfreed@gmail.com) Phone: 808-623-5676