

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 856
RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: January 31, 2018

Room Number: 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. 856,
3 specifically on proposed amendments to Section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes and requests
4 deferral of this measure.

5 Sexuality health education information provided through DOH programs to youth is age
6 appropriate, includes education on abstinence, contraception, and prevention of unintended
7 pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency virus. The
8 DOH contractually requires clinical and community-based direct service agency personnel to
9 receive medically accurate and factual training annually in the methods of sexual violence
10 prevention, identification and the related available resources. Internal DOH program personnel
11 also receive age appropriate training to understand the need to provide youth, adolescents, and
12 adults in forming healthy relationships and to be safe from violence, coercion, and intimidation.
13 Most importantly, DOH programs and services provide youth opportunities to develop skills in
14 critical thinking, problem solving and decision making and encourages communication with their
15 parents, guardians or other trusted adults about sexuality and intimate relations. Amendments to
16 the current statute are not necessary since the DOH currently provides programs and services
17 with the proposed components.

18 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

19 **Offered Amendments: None.**



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

Date: 01/31/2018
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Health and Human Services

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0856 RELATING TO HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes additional mandatory elements to Hawaii's existing sexuality health education law to include general knowledge about sexual abuse and sexual assault, and the prevention, identification, safety resources, and health resources for victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) respectfully offers comments on HB 0856.

Based on the outcome of HB 1905, the DOE, Department of Health (DOH) and stakeholders have met and agreed to establish an independent hui to work together to address and support DOE and DOH efforts related to Hawaii's sexuality health education, including sexual abuse and sexual assault, in public schools.

Sexual health education is a component of our instructional program to support student success. Respectfully, for the aforementioned reasons, we ask that this measure be deferred.

As a public school system, the Hawaii State Department of Education follows statutory requirements, Board of Education policies, and nationally recognized guidance to inform curriculum development and adoption. Schools provide a comprehensive sexual health education that follows the requirements set forth in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §321-11.1 and the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) Policy 103-5 Sexual Health Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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.

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Date: January 31, 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 Supporting the Intent of H.B. 856 with Comments
Relating to Health

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

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) appreciates and supports the intent of H.B. 856, which would amend Hawai'i's sexuality health education law to include some education for students on sexual abuse topics, but respectfully notes some concerns with this measure.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people in Hawai'i. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old, and over half of the survivors on O'ahu 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.

Towards this end, we ask that the legislature please pass one of the Erin's Law measures that are being considered this year to establish a comprehensive sexual violence prevention education program for the State of Hawaii.

Although the current language in H.B. 856 would require "mandatory education on sexual abuse and sexual assault, methods of preventing sexual abuse and sexual assault, identification of the signs of sexual abuse and sexual assault, [and] available safety [and health] resources for victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault," the required elements of the Erin's Law program contemplated in H.B. 2155, HB. 2430, S.B. 2308, S.B. 2542, and S.B. 2368 would further include:

- Developmentally appropriate and evidence-based instruction for each grade level;

- Instruction that is culturally sensitive and adaptable for use within varying school contexts, including age, race, and special needs;
- Sessions conducted annually, building on skills and knowledge learned in previous years;
- Age-appropriate curriculum that involves students as active learning participants, through such methods as discussion, modeling and role playing;
- Instruction that provides students with the knowledge and tools to communicate incidents of sexual abuse;
- Techniques to teach students to recognize child sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their vulnerability, and encourage them to report sexual abuse;
- A professional training component for administrators, teachers and other school personnel on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual abuse on children, handling of child sexual abuse reports and disclosures, and mandated reporting;
- A component that encourages parental or guardian involvement that informs parents and guardians about child sexual abuse topics, including characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors, and methods to discuss child sexual abuse prevention with their children;
- Consideration of child sexual abuse response and reporting policies, and Title IX and any other federal and state laws and policies concerning public school systems' handling of sexual violence issues, to the extent they relate to sexual abuse prevention education; and
- Evaluation components with measurable outcomes.

It is our firm belief that establishing a comprehensive program for regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education that includes instruction for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement, is the best way for the State of Hawai'i to protect children and young people from sexual violence.

HB-856

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:50:44 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Community Alliance on Prisons supports the intent of this bill, however, we prefer HB 2155 (sex abuse prevention) that is far more comprehensive than HB 856. Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts!

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

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

January 26, 2018

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 856 RELATING TO HEALTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 856 Relating to Health.

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.

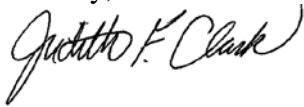
If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

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 initial 'J' and a distinct 'F'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in Support of the Intent of H.B. 856

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of the intent of H.B. 856, as it will promote the health and safety of our youth by promoting sexual health and sexual abuse prevention education. However, we echo the concerns raised by the Sexual Abuse Treatment Center and recommend that this Committee consider H.B. 2155, a more comprehensive sexual abuse prevention education bill.

We greatly appreciate this committee's consideration of this issue and interest in ensuring that Hawaii's youth receive the best and most effective sexual abuse prevention education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie Temple Field
Hawaii Legislative Director



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 856, RELATING TO HEALTH

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hon. John Mizuno, Chair

Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 9:30 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 1905, relating to health.

This bill codifies into law medically-accurate sexual education guidelines, including the provision of information about preventing sexual abuse and sex assault. Access to this information directly impacts our youth's susceptibility to sex trafficking, since traffickers “groom” underage victims for commercial sexual exploitation through a variety of violent and nonviolent means.

Education is key to preventing sex trafficking. As you're undoubtedly aware, sexual slavery is prevalent on Hawai'i's shores. Approximately 120,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, many of which feature school age children. Hawai'i also hosts roughly 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments, which are places where IMUAlliance and our strategic partners have documented multiple cases of prostitution within a single month.

It must also be noted the average age of entrance into commercial sexual exploitation, both locally and nationally, is 13-years-old, the age of an average eighth-grader. Sadly, Moanalua, Mililani, and Campbell High Schools were home to a sex trafficking ring, in 2015, involving over a dozen teenage girls, culminating in the prosecution of three men for promoting prostitution.

We must protect our keiki. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

HB-856

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:34:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
AHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
9:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 856, RELATING TO HEALTH

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No 856, relating to sexual abuse, sexual assault and comprehensive sex education. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 856 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 856, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it extends sexuality health education to include general knowledge about sexual abuse and sexual assault, and the prevention, identification,

safety resources, and health resources for victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault. Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that “[w]e believe in women’s equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to equal access to reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room. . . . We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.” (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 170-172, 186-187 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 856 relates to sexual abuse, sexual assault and comprehensive sex education, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

LATE

January 30, 2018

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Date/Time: January 31, 2018 at 10:00 am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 329

Re: Testimony **in SUPPORT of HB 856**, relating to health (sexual abuse; sexual assault; comprehensive sex ed.)

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services,

I am Jasmin Chang, a MSW candidate at the University of Hawaii's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am grateful for this opportunity to write in **support of HB 856**, which would incorporate and mandate elements of the prevention, identification, and availability of resources concerning sexual abuse and assault into our current sexuality health education law.

I urge you to heavily consider the magnitude and prevalence of sexual abuse and assault here in Hawaii, and treat it as a serious public health concern. Consider that 1 in 7 women in Hawaii have been exposed to forcible rape in their lifetime, 1 in 6 men in the U.S abused before the age of 18, and that the majority of victims were under the age of 18, and more than 90% of victims are acquainted, be it a friend, relative, or intimate partner, with the perpetrator.¹ Furthermore, sexual assault and abuse incurs one of the highest annual victim cost at \$127 billion a year and results in devastating consequences for victims, families, and their communities.² Sexual abuse and assault is HAPPENING, and we cannot treat it as a taboo by hesitating to include it as a part of sexuality health education. Rather, Hawaii's youth must be educated on how they can keep themselves and others safe and healthy – to be able to say “no,” to understand consent, to comprehend the concept of privacy and boundaries, and more. Please ensure that the bill is to explicitly state the inclusion of understanding consent under the topic of

^{1,2} See more at <http://satchawaii.com/get-info-about-statistics.aspx> for statistics regarding sexual violence in Hawaii and the United States.

prevention of sexual abuse and assault, so that methods of prevention do not only reflect ideas of victim-blaming.

As a social worker who frequently works with children and youth, I can see how integrating this fundamental component of safety and health in our youths' education will equip them not only with developmentally appropriate knowledge and skills to distinguish safety and danger in regards to sexuality, but to promote communication, consent, and refusal skills. With the passage of this bill, we can expect to see an increase knowledge of appropriate sex and safety amongst Hawaii's youth, an increase in youth and young adults who know where they can seek support services and resources if needed, and ultimately, a decrease in rates of sexual assault and abuse amongst youth and adolescents, and related health care costs.

Hawaii's youth deserve to learn in an environment that actively promotes their safety, health, and well-being. I strongly urge the committee to pass this bill forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jasmin Chang

HB-856

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 6:29:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-856

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:14:04 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments: