

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/28/2017  
**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Location:** 308  
**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0930 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.

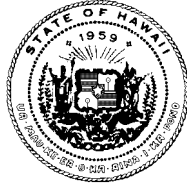
**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 930 and provides comments.

Given the Department's upcoming leadership changes, it has concerns about the chair designation for the proposed workgroup and the set date by which the workgroup must be convened.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 930.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 28, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB930 - Relating to Education**

Hearing: February 28, 2017, 11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill and provides comments. DHS 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 sees the tragic effects of sexual abuse on Hawaii's children and their families. In SFY 2015, fifty-one children (ranging from age 3 through age 17) were confirmed for sexual abuse by a family member.

The DHS works collaboratively with the Department of Education (DOE) to prevent child sex abuse, and serves as a resource to the DOE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

February 28, 2017

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*  
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*  
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice  
Chair*  
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta  
Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison  
to the military*  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Ms. Gabriele Finn  
Mr. Sage Goto  
Ms. Valerie Johnson  
Ms. Bernadette Lane  
Ms. Kaili Murbach  
Ms. Stacey Oshio  
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Ms. Charlene Robles  
Ms. Rosie Rowe  
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Dr. Todd Takahashi  
Dr. Daniel Ulrich  
Mr. Steven Vannatta  
Mr. Gavin Villar  
Dr. Amy Wiech  
Ms. Jasmine Williams  
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 930 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

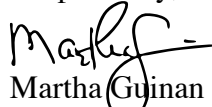
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of HB 930 that creates and funds an Erin's Law Task Force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention.

Hawaii's students with disabilities are at higher risk of sexual abuse than their non-disabled peers. A 2012 meta-analysis of studies regarding the incidence of sexual abuse found children with disabilities 2.9 times more likely to experience abuse. For children with intellectual and mental health disabilities the risk was 4.6 times the rate for their typical peers.

Given the heightened risk of sexual abuse being perpetrated upon students with disabilities, it is imperative that all prevention and early intervention efforts include curricula that are tailored to the individual learning needs of these students. SEAC recommends that the proposed task force include at least one individual with expertise in educating students with disabilities.

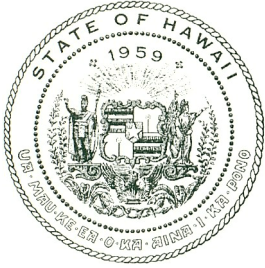
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair

HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA  
CYD HOFFELD  
JUDY KERN  
MARILYN LEE  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director  
Cathy Betts, JD

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Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov  
Visit us at:  
humanservices.hawaii.gov  
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-586-5758  
FAX: 808-586-5756

February 28, 2017

**Testimony in Support of HB 930, Relating to Education**

**To:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

**Re:** Testimony in Support of HB 930, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of HB 930, which would establish an "Erin's Law" Task force to help guide and direct the implementation of a sexual abuse prevention curriculum within our Department of Education.

Sexual abuse is a difficult subject for many people to talk about. Our educators are not immune to this difficulty. Predators of children bank on others' resistance to talking about sexual abuse. Silence about the subject allows predators to continue—when we don't know the warning signs, when our children are scared or threatened into thinking mistreatment is acceptable, when we do not raise awareness about this issue—abusers continue.

Sexual abuse prevention and education is crucial for educators and students to have. While some sexual abuse prevention education is offered to our DOE, implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Yet, children are largely at risk for sexual abuse and remain at high risk of being abused by a family friend or family member.

As a result, public school students may not receive regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education. Parents and guardians may not receive information about child sexual abuse topics; and educators and school staff may not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling disclosures and mandatory reports to child welfare.

An Erin's law task force would work with educators and community stakeholders to develop and implement the best practices and curricula, resulting in safer students. The Commission strongly supports HB 930 and respectfully requests that this Committee pass this bill.



**TO:** Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance  
**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)  
**DATE/LOCATION:** February 28, 2017; 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 930 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**We support of HB 930 – Relating to Education.** Sadly, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday. There are more than 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. 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 and child sexual abuse training immediately is the appropriate course.** We appreciate the effort in establishing a task force to “get it right”. Task forces have been formed in other states related to Erin’s Law, however, we worry about the delay in the process of ensuring that children are safe from harm. Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. We understand that we want to “get it right” and make sure we set this up properly. If that is the intent, so be it, however, the longer we delay, the more likely children will be at risk without needed supports. 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

It is critical to identify these child victims early 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 Erin's Law because it recommends:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education should be taught in grades as early as pre-Kindergarten through high school.
- Giving children the tools to speak up and seek help.
- Providing intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
- Training school staff and faculty regarding child sexual abuse prevention and the handling of sexual abuse disclosures.

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. 26 States have passed Erin's Law, 17 states have introduced it, and 7 are still in process. Let's move to pass this law. We support the intent of this bill but would like to see Erin's Law implemented immediately.

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 in **support of HB 930**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.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

Central Oahu Youth Services  
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family  
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

February 27, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 930 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 930 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.

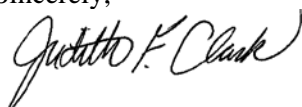
If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

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 an evidence-based, culturally relevant curriculum developed by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center that is already in use in some public schools.

Hawaii Youth Services Network would be pleased to serve on the Erin's Law Task Force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



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

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## **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

### **TESTIMONY—HB 930, Relating to Education**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

**Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii, Executive Director**

#### **POSITION: SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chair Luke and committee members,

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

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

Thus, sexual abuse and sex trafficking are closely related. Yet, they are not the same. While sexual abuse involves forcing undesired sexual behavior by one person



upon another, 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.

We are thankful that this bill includes sex trafficking prevention education as a concept for review by the task force. 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, and is overseen by professional educators and education specialists. We are currently reviewing its comportment with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. To ensure that the task force hears the strategies of advocates working to end commercial sexual exploitation and, more importantly, survivors of this horrible crime, we request that the executive director of a sex trafficking victim services provider that provides educational programming, like UNITE or our strategic partner IMUAlliance, be added to the task force’s membership.

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



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

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## TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 930, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**House Committee on Finance**  
**Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair**  
**Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2017, 3:00 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for HB 930, relating to education.

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

We are one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention services to 130 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims in total. We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach. Teachers, in turn, frequently request information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state's prolific slave trade. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we

cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name.

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

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

We believe that education ends exploitation. When students are empowered with knowledge about the risk factors of sex trafficking and sexual abuse, they are able to spot the signs of abuse and take action to protect themselves, their peers, and their communities. Moreover, education guards against the psychological impact of abuse, which, again, can include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorder, explosive outbursts, self-injurious and suicidal behavior, and hyper-sexualization.

We are enthused that sex trafficking has been explicitly included as a point of task force consideration in the bill. Sex trafficking is, essentially, a commercialized form of sexual abuse. That said, to ensure that the experiences of anti-trafficking victim service providers and the survivors we serve, as well as the standards-based prevention programs we facilitate in public and private schools, are fully addressed, we humbly **ask that this bill be amended to include a sex trafficking victim service provider as part of the task force**. We also **suggest that a public school teacher be made a member of the task force**, since teachers enable educational programming and curricula, while managing student response and intervention frameworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 1:53 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kinikalela\_m@mail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB930 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM\*

**HB930**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:37 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: sabrinanguyen2010@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB930 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

**HB930**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: I submit testimony in strong support of HB930, for the establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force to work on sound policy for the Department of Education to efficiently implement curricula to better educate our students of sex abuse prevention. I believe the Task Force can create solid age appropriate curricula to ensure students are equipped with the proper understanding and educated on sex abuse which will be effective in protecting our children from such a crime. This new policy will ensure that the DOE and State will be working to provide policy to better protect our children against sexual abuse now and in the future. For these reasons, I stand in strong support of HB930.

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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**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:09 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB930 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

**HB930**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

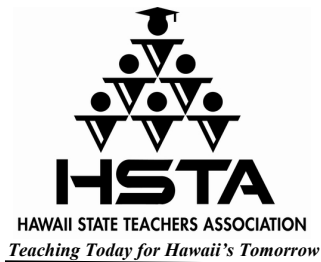
Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I submit testimony in support of HB390 to establish a Erin's Law Task Force to determine curricula for age appropriate sex abuse prevention education for students. The students of Hawaii represent the state's most important resource, because our children represent the future of our state. Therefore, it is extremely important that we ensure the safety and provide strong age appropriate educational policy on sex abuse prevention. This will ensure fine policy protection for our Keiki. I thank you for allowing me to provide my testimony in strong support of HB390.

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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**LATE**

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Justin Hughey  
Vice President  
Amy Perruso  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE

RE: HB 930 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports and suggests amendments for HB 930**, 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 maltreatment.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. Yet, studies have shown that up to 81 percent of teachers receive little preservice information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given inservice (on the job) information. As this committee's preamble notes, programs currently exist, in Hawai'i, to train teachers and staff, and provide sexual abuse prevention education to students, but implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important that both teachers and students be informed on how to prevent sexual abuse and handle it when it occurs. Accordingly, we urge you to **add a public school teacher appointed by Hawaii State Teachers Association to the task force** to ensure that the classroom experience and teacher-student dynamic are given adequate representation.

We are thankful that this bill covers sex trafficking. Anti-trafficking lessons are frequently requested by public school teachers to combat student exploitation and are included in coordinated protocols being developed for the Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family

Courts. Sex trafficking is differentially defined from sexual abuse as the use of “force, fraud, or coercion” in compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who *should* be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com. The average age of a victim’s entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation being heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also prime targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of “solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks” (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual abuse, so must we safeguard against the closely related crime of sexual exploitation and provide educators with the tools needed to ease victims’ reentry into the classroom setting.

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





From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:11 PM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: alangarcia2017@yahoo.com  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB930 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

**HB930**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of HB390 - For the following reasons, laws requiring that public school systems implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement, have passed in 26 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 17 others. These laws and the programs they would create represent a national trend in safety, health and wellbeing education and are collectively referred to as “Erin’s Law” after an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education. HB390 is necessary to provide the State of Hawaii the means to design and plan a strong, sustainable program to consistently make sexual abuse prevention education available to all public school students. In order to do so, this measure would follow the model of several other states that have successfully adopted Erin’s Law, by bringing together stakeholders from the legislature, relevant state agencies and the community in order to collaboratively review existing policies, programs and curricula; assess service gaps and needs; and make well-informed recommendations through a transparent, report-driven process. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to pass HB390.

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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