

SB2342



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 2342 – Relating to Victims of Sexual Violence

Dear Chair Baker , Chair Green, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2342 requiring health insurance coverage for clinical victim support services for victims of sexual violence. HMSA appreciates the intent of this measure and respectfully offers the following comments.

We continue to believe this bill may be unnecessary as there is no distinction made when a member has a mental health issue in regards to the suspected cause or reason for the condition; we do understand and appreciate that victims of sexual violence have particular support service needs that deserve specific consideration and we believe we meet these needs.

We also draw the Committee’s attention to the following:

- HMSA’s existing case management services meet the intent of this measure; however, as drafted this measure could expand benefits beyond what plans currently offer. In particular, Section 2(3), coordination with schools, employers, and other individuals and entities concerning the victim.
- Section 2, consider replacing “qualified mental health provider” with “licensed mental health provider” and include an accompanying definition consistent with the statute.
- Consider amending Section 7 of the bill to change the effective date to apply to policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed in the State after January 1, 2019; this will ensure that that plans and providers have suitable time to implement and operationalize any proposed changes.

Thank you for allowing us to provide these comments on SB 2342.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice President, Government Relations

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

YWCA of Kauai
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DATE: January 30, 2018

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Renae Hamilton-Cambeilh, Executive Director
YWCA of Kaua`i

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2342
Relating to Sexual Assault

Good Afternoon, Chairs Green and Baker, Vice Chairs Chang and Tokuda, and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. My name is Renae Hamilton and I am the Executive Director for the YWCA of Kaua`i.

The YWCA of Kaua`i strongly supports S.B. 2342 which requires health insurers to provide coverage for clinical victim support services by qualified mental health providers for victims of sexual violence. The YWCA is the sole provider on Kaua`i for providing essential services related to sexual assault; crisis intervention and counseling treatment. We provide an average of over 2,000 counseling hours a year for over 200 clients. Over 50% of the victims that receive counseling services are under 18 years old. Adults who were molested as children are a large percentage of our adult clients. This bill provides an avenue to fill a gap in services for survivors of sexual assault who are participating in clinical treatment to heal from the trauma of sexual assault.

In addition to clinical treatment, victims with mental health conditions caused by being sexually assaulted often require clinical support services which can include; working with schools, employers, other agencies and government departments. The range of clinical support issues include; safety planning, assisting with reasonable accommodations as appropriate and accessing correct agencies or government departments for housing, health care etc. This clinical support is an essential aspect of treatment for SA victims and each, each survivors healing journey is unique and it is important to acknowledge that sexual assault offenses are not like other offenses and need additional support throughout the course of treatment.. This bill would help these survivors access all the services they need and a means for those services to be funded with the ability to access health care coverage benefits.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, I urge the committees to pass S.B 2342 as written. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:26:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2018 2:55:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence supports SB2342 and believes in the value of ongoing case management, advocacy and support for victims of sexual abuse. Thank you for your support as well.

January 31, 2018

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Re: **SB 2342 – Relating to Victims of Sexual Violence**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 16, January 31, 2018, 2:55 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB2342 – Relating to Victims of Sexual Violence.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 9% of child maltreatment cases involve sexual abuse. Experiencing sexual violence or abuse at a young age can cause serious trauma, and significantly increases the likelihood that the child will experience negative health and well-being outcomes throughout their lifetime.

After experiencing sexual violence, children often require comprehensive medical and psychological services to help them heal, continue healthy neurodevelopment, and navigate everyday life. In addition to psychotherapy, sexual violence victims may require clinical victim support services, a professional intervention delivered by a qualified mental health provider with whom the victim has established a therapeutic relationship. This relationship of trust is especially important when dealing with child victims. Clinical support services could include working with a child's school or other entities to arrange reasonable accommodations to address the child's needs, helping a child and their family to access government or community programs and services, and coordinating with the child's pediatrician.

These services are often medically necessary to address a victim's needs and may prevent the need for more costly interventions. Unfortunately, these services are also routinely not covered by health insurance. This severely limits services' accessibility to children in low-income households. This bill is necessary because it will ensure that children are not denied access to the services they need to heal from sexual abuse simply because their parents cannot afford it.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee PASS this bill.

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



Hawaii Women's Coalition

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Josh Green, Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair**

**DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018
TIME: 2:55PM
PLACE: Conference Room 16**

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2432 concerning insurance coverage for services to victims of sexual violence.

Aloha Chairs ,

The Coalition is in **strong support** of this bill that would provide consistent and compassionate insurance coverage for victims of sex assault.

As the experts in this field have said, in addition to psychotherapy, victims with mental health conditions caused by sexual violence can require clinical victim support services. Clinical victim support services can include working with schools, employers and other individuals and entities on such issues as safety planning and reasonable accommodations for the victim's mental health conditions; assisting a victim to obtain entitlements and access programs and services offered by government agencies and community organizations; and coordinating with a victim's other health care providers, such as primary care physicians and hospitals.

Under existing insurance policies a victim may have to go through the trauma of telling her or his story over and over again if there is not coordinated management of professional services. We believe we can do better. This bill, if passed into law will help.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsfreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676

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Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:54:38 PM

Testimony for CPH on 1/31/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jina Rabago		Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

January 31, 2018
2:55 pm
Conference Room 16

Re: SB 2342 Relating to Victims of Sexual Violence

Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2342 relating to insurance coverage for mental health services for victims of sexual violence.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports the intent of this bill, but requests an amendment.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill's intent to promote mental health service availability for victims of sexual violence and abuse. Kaiser Permanente already provides clinical counseling for sex abuse victims through its Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH), which is an integration of Kaiser Permanente's psychiatry/psychology/licensed social work counselor departments.

However, as this bill recognizes, there is a lack of access to professional clinical services due to the "limited availability of qualified mental health providers who are able to take on potentially complex mental health cases." See Page 2, Lines 11-15. To free up much-needed access to professional clinical services by qualified mental health providers, we request an amendment to add unlicensed clinical staff, under the supervision of qualified mental health providers, to assist in providing the case management functions included under "clinical victim support service", i.e., coordinating with other health care providers, assisting victims in obtaining government entitlements, and coordinating with schools, employers, etc. This addition will allow more flexibility by allowing clinical staff such as case managers/care coordinators, under the supervision of qualified mental health providers, to perform these more administrative case

management functions and ease demand strain on qualified mental health providers (to allow more opportunity for these providers to focus on providing psychotherapy services, etc.).

Therefore, based on the foregoing, we request the following amendment on Page 3, Lines 10-11 (in brackets and underscored):

- 9 "Clinical victim support service" means a professional
- 10 intervention conducted by a qualified mental health provider [or unlicensed clinical
11 staff, under the supervision of a qualified mental health provider] to
- 12 identify needs and assist in obtaining coordinated, appropriate
- 13 services, and resources for a victim of sexual violence and
- 14 abuse to curtail or prevent the progression and worsening of
- 15 mental disorders and associated functional impairments caused,
- 16 in whole or in part, by the sexual violence and abuse. Clinical
- 17 victim support services include:
- 18 (1) Coordinating with other healthcare providers, such as
- 19 Primary care physicians, behavioral and mental health
- 20 care providers, and hospitals;
- 21 (2) Assisting victims of sexual violence and abuse in
- 1 obtaining appropriate government entitlements, access,
- 2 insurance coverage, and other appropriate programs and
- 3 services offered by government agencies and community
- 4 organizations; and
- 5 (3) Coordinating with schools, employers, and other
- individuals and entities concerning a victim.

Thank you for your consideration.