

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

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To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 23, 2018, 11AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Re: Testimony in support of S.B 2368 SD1, relating to education

Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kahele, Vice Chair English, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in **support of SB 2368 SD1**, 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 S.B. 2368 SD1.

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

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Date: February 23, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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 S.B. 2368 S.D. 1
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.B. 2368 S.D. 1.

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 SATC's services were younger than 18 years old at the time they were assaulted.

Child sexual abuse exacts an enormous personal, social, and economic cost from survivors and their communities, much of which is paid for by the taxpayer. A 2012 study found that the average lifetime cost per victim of violent trauma in childhood is \$210,000, costing billions of dollars annually. These expenses, directly resulting from child sexual abuse, can include health care, criminal justice, child welfare, special education, and losses in productivity. The public further pays for indirect costs associated with child sexual abuse, such as responding to the significantly higher rates of delinquency and crime, academic problems, teen pregnancy, and behavioral issues noted in survivors.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, and the profound, costly harm it causes, 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 Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), SATC delivers training and education on four age-appropriate, evidence-informed curricula, designed for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd grade through 5th

grade, middle school, and high school, which were developed in partnership with the DOE and teachers from both public and private schools, and rigorously evaluated to establish their effectiveness by Dr. Charlene Baker of the University of Hawai'i. 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 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.

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.

We respectfully request that you please pass S.B. 2368 S.D. 1.

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

February 21, 2018

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2368 SD 1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2368 SD 1 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 initial "J" and a distinct "F".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:45:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	Testifying for American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Not only is it important for a healthy community to provide this type of care, but it also makes good economic sense. Care postponed often results in greater social and financial costs.



DATE: Friday, February 23, 2018; 11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
Parents And Children Together

RE: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2368 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Parents And Children Together **STRONGLY** supports SB 2368 – Relating to Education.

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. Many victims never disclose their abuse to anyone.
- 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).

Impacts to the Victim of Child Sexual Abuse:

- The experience of sexual abuse for a child distorts her or his self-concept, orientation to the world and affective capabilities.
- High rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, dissociative disorders, interpersonal dysfunction, sexual problems, self-mutilation, and suicidal ideation have all been identified to varying degrees among men and women who survive child sexual abuse.
- Child sexual assault victims are 4.7 times more likely to be the subsequent victim of a sex crime.
- Adolescents with a history of sexual abuse are significantly more likely to engage in sexual behavior that puts them at risk for HIV infection.
- When sexually abused children are not treated, society must later deal with resulting problems such as mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, suicide and the perpetuation of a cycle of sexual abuse.
- Victims face higher incidents of poor academic performance and dropping out of high school.
- There is an increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships and difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships.

Cost of Care/Impacts to Hawaii:

- In 2012 a study performed by the Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect stated that low-end estimate for the lifetime cost of each case of child sexual abuse is \$210,000.
- The cost benefit of prevention is 19 to 1.
- 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 protections 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.

Why This Bill Will Help:

- In most cases the only "information" a child is getting on this issue is from the perpetrator. They are being taught to keep the matter private with threats of harm to them or their family. Children rarely report abuse and are told it was their fault. This will provide the education and tools to children to speak up and seek help.
- Schools provide the conduit for the proper age-appropriate education to be delivered on a consistent basis. This education will be delivered regularly to all of Hawaii's DOE children.
- School staff and faculty will be better equipped to address and handle the matter when it arises.
- Parents will also be informed about the signs and how to speak with their children on this difficult topic.

Conclusion:

- Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki.
- With 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.
- 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 daily 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.**
- Erin's law is asking for a minimum of 1 hour every school year to deliver this training.
- 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 to provide students with the services they need, before they are further affected by the negative impacts of sexual abuse.
- It is sad that we must make laws like this to protect our keiki. Especially in light of recent news both nationally and here in Hawaii, passing this law is the right thing to do. There is no argument against it – cost, time, safety, health all support passing this law.
- Not passing this law sends the wrong message to offenders like Larry Nasser, Jerry Sandusky and even those perpetrators here in Hawaii and it tells the victims that we simply don't care about them.
- "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." No child can afford to wait any longer. 31 States have passed Erin's Law, 18 states have introduced it, and only 1 is still in process. Let's not be the last state to pass this law.

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, sex trafficking intervention, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 2368**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

hscadv



HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1609, Honolulu, HI 96813

DATE: February 23, 2018

TO: State of Hawai'i, Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: Jina Rabago, Program Manager
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: Testimony in Strong Support for SB 2368 S.D. 1
Relating to Education

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

On behalf of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) and our 22 member organizations across the state, I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2368 S.D. 1, which requires the Department of Health to establish and implement a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through age-appropriate curricula, provide relevant training to school teachers and staff, and inform parents and guardians about important child sexual abuse topics.

Sexual abuse is a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and well-being of children and young people in the State of Hawai'i. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused prior to becoming 18 years old.

Sexual assault can have severe consequences to children and teens who are victims, including mental health consequences, substance abuse, delinquency and crimes, and academic problems. This often incurs personal and economic expenses for the survivor and their communities.

Studies have found that children and teens do not often report sexual abuse due to the shame associated with the abuse, the lack of understanding of the situation, or the uncertainty of who they can trust. School-based sexual violence prevention programs increases the likelihood of disclosure in students, in which intervention could occur at an earlier point. By requiring sexual violence prevention programs in schools, children and teens will be equipped with the necessary knowledge to protect themselves against sexual violence and teachers will be able to assist and offer the proper support to students who disclose.

As stated above, HSCADV strongly supports SB 2368 S.D. 1

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If you would like to discuss this or have any questions, I can be reached at 808-832-9316 ext. 2 or via email at jrabago@hscadv.org.

Together we can do amazing things



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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2368, SD 1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2368, SD 1**, 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: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, 11:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2368

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.B. 2368. 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: according to the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, more than half of the many thousands of survivors on Oahu that have historically received services from SATC 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:30:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbra Pleadwell	Testifying for YWCA Oahu Advocacy Committee	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:33:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine	Testifying for YWCA Oahu Advocacy Committee	Support	No

Comments:

As an individual and chair of the YWCA of O'ahu's Advocacy Committee, I submit my testimony in strong support of this bill to appropriate funds and require the DOE to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age-appropriate curricula.

In light of recent conviction of Lawrence G. Nassar, the the longtime team physician for the U.S. womens' and Michigan State gymnastics teams, and of many local incidences including recent news involving a 5-year-old victim who's recollection of abuse by a friend's father who had been accused of similar incidents involving another girl, we have seen and heard too many accounts of sex abuse on vulnerable children who often don't know what is happening to them is a crime and how they can report it so the abuser is charged. The TIME IS UP to implement stronger standards and programs that help prevent these crimes from happening. (See *related story: Porn law's loophole helped Oahu man avoid charges, critics say*, Reported by: Rob Perez on Jan. 21, 2018 in [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#))

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

- Students in grades preK – 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 10 children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. This statistic is too high a burden for any child to overcome. It's critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from being prey to child sexual abuse.

Please support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Souki



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

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2368, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
EDUCATION**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hon. Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 23, 2018, 11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz 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 Senate Bill 2368, SD 1, 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

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:36:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Testifying for Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:20:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole A Velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in **support of SB 2368 SD1**, 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.

Currently, 31 states and the Territory of Guam require that public school systems implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement. Seventeen other states have introduced similar legislation. The laws 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.

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.

I respectfully request that you please pass SB 2368 SD1.

Mahalo,

Nicole Velasco

YWCA Board Member



841 Bishop Street
Suite 935
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 237-5190
Toll-free 1-888-752-6948
Fax (808) 237-5194

February 21, 2018

Subject: Testimony in support of SB 2368 SD1, relating to education.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

Ignoring sexual abuse will not make it go away. Not educating children about it makes it more likely to happen. You can't educate predators to stop, but you can proactively empower their victims to report.

The first step to stopping abuse is to identify it and identify the abuser. You cannot do this unless a child knows what is right and wrong and feels empowered to report it. Effective education at an early age will help children know when an adult or older child is crossing the line and give them the tools to get help from a trusted adult.

I won't waste your time with statistics, you've heard them. Chances are, you already know someone who was abused when they were young. This bill won't help them. However, statistically speaking, you know a child right now that **will** be a target of sexual violence before they are 18. This bill can help them. You can help them.

I respectfully request that you please pass SB 2368 SD1

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew F. Haley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew F. Haley

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:41:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:13:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:30:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2368_SD1 and urge you to ensure Hawaii's keiki have education to prevent sexual abuse. We must stop the cycle of abuse that continues to occur without education to help children and parents learn how to talk about this topic and seek help if they need support services.

Child sexual abuse exacts an enormous personal, social, and economic cost from survivors and their communities, much of which is paid for by the taxpayer. A 2012 study found that the average lifetime cost per victim of violent trauma in childhood is \$210,000, costing billions of dollars annually. These expenses, directly resulting from child sexual abuse, can include health care, criminal justice, child welfare, special education, and losses in productivity. The public further pays for indirect costs associated with child sexual abuse, such as responding to the significantly higher rates of delinquency and crime, academic problems, teen pregnancy, and behavioral issues noted in survivors.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a survivor of childhood sex abuse and support SB 2368 SD1.

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 empowered me to tell someone what was happening to me.

Mahalo,

Andre Bisquera

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

From: Mahealani Mahiai Austin

Hearing Date: 02/23/18

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Room 211

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2368, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Mahealani Austin and I'm a graduate student in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at UH Mānoa. I am testifying in **strong support of SB 2368** which I have been following for the past two years.

I **strongly support** this bill for the following reasons:

- As an adult survivor of childhood sexual abuse, I have experienced first hand how devastating it can be for a child to be violated, manipulated, betrayed, and robbed of pure innocence, joy, and happiness. My abuse happened on different occasions throughout my childhood years by "Uncles" whom I was supposed to trust. Studies show that 90% of children are sexually abused by **someone they know and trust**.
- I believe that sexual abuse prevention education and healthy sexuality education in schools will help protect and empower our children. I believe that it will create a sense of normalcy to be open to sharing abuse amongst our children, to protect their private parts, and to tell someone if they are ever violated.
- I know of about a dozen family members and friends, who were also sexually abused as a child and I'm tired of hearing that the outcome was a "hush-hush" thing. With the recent Hollywood, Olympics, and Kamehameha Schools sexual abuse investigations, we have seen the pain of what hundreds of victims have been through. Investing in this bill will equip teachers and counselors with the necessary tools and training to effectively help children and families of all ethnic cultures and backgrounds.

I humbly ask for you to consider in investing in this bill for the sake of our children and their future. Prevention, prevention, prevention... Together, let us make Hawai'i the 32nd state to establish Erin's Law.

Mahalo for your time,

Mahealani Austin