
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sexual abuse remains
2 a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and well-
3 being of children and young people in the State of Hawaii.

4 Sadly, one in four girls and one in six boys will be the
5 victim of child sexual abuse by their eighteenth birthday.

6 There are more than forty-two million survivors of child sexual
7 abuse in the United States. This is a matter that is often kept
8 silent and as a result, is left unaddressed. Most people do not
9 even realize that this is a significant issue or that they are a
10 victim. In almost every case, the only witnesses to this crime
11 are the perpetrator and the victim. Perpetrators often tell the
12 child this is a secret and no one will believe them. Children
13 rarely report abuse and are meant to feel that the abuse was
14 their fault. Most victims never tell anyone until several years
15 after the abuse, if they ever tell at all.

16 Although programs and department of education-approved
17 curricula currently exist in the State to provide training to



1 school teachers and staff, and sexual abuse prevention education
2 to students, implementation is not consistent system wide, and
3 resources for the provision of training and education are
4 limited.

5 Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular,
6 consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents
7 informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many
8 school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on
9 talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the
10 effects of child sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse
11 disclosures, and mandated reporting.

12 Laws requiring that public school systems implement a
13 program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education
14 for students, teacher and staff training, and parental
15 involvement have been passed in thirty-one states and the
16 Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures
17 of fifteen others. These laws represent a national trend in
18 safety, health, and well-being education and are collectively
19 referred to as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of child
20 sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for
21 required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
2 education to establish and implement a program to:

- 3 (1) Educate public school students on sexual abuse
4 prevention through age appropriate curricula;
- 5 (2) Provide relevant training to school teachers and
6 staff; and
- 7 (3) Inform parents and guardians about important child
8 sexual abuse topics.

9 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall
10 establish a sexual abuse prevention education program to be
11 implemented beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

12 Implementation of the program shall include:

- 13 (1) A child abuse and child sexual abuse education program
14 in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve that
15 includes:
 - 16 (A) Developmentally appropriate and evidence-based
17 instruction for each grade level;
 - 18 (B) Instruction that is culturally sensitive and
19 adaptable for use within varying school contexts,
20 including age, race, and special needs;



- 1 (C) A minimum of one hour of instruction per school
- 2 year, building on skills and knowledge learned in
- 3 previous years;
- 4 (D) Age-appropriate curriculum that involves students
- 5 as active learning participants, through such
- 6 methods as discussion, modeling, and role
- 7 playing;
- 8 (E) Instruction that provides students with the
- 9 knowledge and tools to communicate incidents of
- 10 sexual abuse;
- 11 (F) Techniques to teach students to recognize child
- 12 sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce
- 13 their vulnerability, and encourage them to report
- 14 sexual abuse;
- 15 (G) A professional training component for
- 16 administrators, teachers, and other school
- 17 personnel on talking to students about child
- 18 sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual
- 19 abuse on children, handling of child sexual abuse
- 20 reports and disclosures, and mandated reporting;
- 21 and



- 1 (H) A component that encourages parental or guardian
2 involvement that informs parents and guardians
3 about child sexual abuse topics, including
4 characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors,
5 and methods to discuss child sexual abuse
6 prevention with their children;
- 7 (2) Child abuse and child sexual abuse response and
8 reporting policies;
- 9 (3) Capacity to be delivered by a range of personnel and
10 professionals, including teachers, school counselors,
11 and outside agency prevention educators; provided that
12 the personnel and professionals shall have a thorough
13 knowledge of child sexual abuse, including how to
14 respond appropriately to sexual abuse disclosures;
- 15 (4) An evaluation component with measurable outcomes; and
- 16 (5) Title IX and any other federal and state laws and
17 policies concerning public school systems' handling of
18 sexual violence issues, to the extent that they relate
19 to sexual abuse prevention education.



1 (b) The department of education may contract with eligible
2 nonprofit or charitable organizations, private entities, or
3 public entities to carry out the purposes of this Act.

4 (c) The board of education shall adopt board policies to
5 effectuate the sexual abuse prevention education program
6 established pursuant to this section, which the department of
7 education shall be required to implement.

8 (d) The department of education shall submit a report of
9 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019, 2020, and 2021
12 on the status of the implementation of and nature of the child
13 sexual abuse prevention education program.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
17 implementation of the child sexual abuse prevention education
18 program.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 education for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Erin's Law; Education; Sexual Abuse Prevention; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education 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 about important child sexual abuse topics. Requires the Board of Education to adopt Board of Education policies to effectuate the sexual abuse prevention education program and to be implemented by the Department of Education. Requires reports to the Legislature on the status of implementation. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





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

Date: 03/21/2018
Time: 02:30 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2368, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education 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 about important child sexual abuse topics. Requires the Board of Education to adopt Board of Education policies to effectuate the sexual abuse prevention education program and to be implemented by the Department of Education. Requires reports to the Legislature on the status of implementation. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the important role of public education in child sexual abuse prevention. The Department is actively seeking input from a broad array of school administrators regarding the programmatic implementation and resource requirements mandated by this proposal.

The Department remains open to working with stakeholders to review other states' implementation and cost implications, and to report recommendations to the 2019 Legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2368, SD2.

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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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2368, SD 2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2368, SD 2**, 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.



March 21, 2018

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Education

RE: SB 2368 SD2 Relating to Education
Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 2:30 p.m., Room 309

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of SB 2368 SD2 Relating to Education. Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people be provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves against sexual violence and obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible. Moreover, it is critical that those who interact the most with children and young people, including parents, other guardians, educators and school staff, receive sufficient training to understand issues of sexual violence and respond appropriately.

Laws requiring that public school systems implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement, have passed in 31 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 17 others.

These laws and the programs they would create represent a national trend in safety, health and wellbeing education, and are collectively referred to as "Erin's Law" after Erin Merryn, an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention and education.

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

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

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

March 21, 2018

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2368 SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2368 SD 2 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

Board of Directors

Ruth Ohata, President
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Date: March 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair House Committee on Education

From: Lorraine Davis, Chief Operating Officer, YWCA of Hawaii Island and Program Director for the Sexual Assault Support Services and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of S.B. 2368 S.D. 2 Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong and members of the House Committee on Education:

The YWCA of Hawaii Island (YWCA) strongly supports S.B. 2368 S.D. 2.

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: In the past three years, 55 – 60% of our cases coming into the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) program were under the age of 17.

The harm caused by sexual violence experienced in childhood can be profound. Physical consequences of child sexual abuse can include acute injuries, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancy, and long term effects such as chronic pain, gastrointestinal and gynecological disorders, and cervical cancer. Moreover, in the aftermath of sexual violence, survivors often develop chronic or episodic mental health conditions, including sleep, eating, and substance abuse disorders, generalized anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These consequences reverberate through the survivors' families and communities.

Child sexual abuse also exacts an enormous financial cost from society, 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.

Our Programs

Healthy Families
Preschool and School Age
Sexual Assault Support Services
Teen Court

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, and the lasting, 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.

After five years with no funding for prevention education, we were able to obtain funding for two years through Sex Abuse Treatment Center (our master contractor) and the County of Hawaii. With that funding, the YWCA has been able to deliver training and education on age-appropriate, evidence-informed curricula, designed for students in preschools, kindergarten through 2nd grade, and 3rd grade through 5th grade. After visiting classrooms in five different schools across the Island of Hawaii, we had over 20 disclosure of “that happened to me.”

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 32 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of the remaining 18 states.

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 childhood sexual violence.

We respectfully request that you please pass S.B. 2368 S.D. 2.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

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1566 Wilder Avenue
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ywcaohu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Education

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 2:30PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 309

Re: Testimony in support of S.B 2386 SD2, Relating to education

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony **in support of SB 2368 SD2**, 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 SD2.

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

March 20, 2018

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Re: S.B. 2368 S.D.2 Relating to Education

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 2:30 p.m., Room 309.

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Stephanie Batzer. I am the Chair of the Board of Directors for Family Programs Hawaii, a family social worker, and I have been a Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (CASA VGAL) for nearly six years. I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of S.B.2369 S.D.2** Relating to Education, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education to establish a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age-appropriate curricula.

Children are Hawaii's most valuable resource. They are our future. Family Programs Hawaii is a unique non-profit agency that provides quality care to the children of Hawaii. Our goal is that every child in Hawaii has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. We help foster children and children at risk with three areas of service: prevention, transition, and support.

In 2015, there were 1,506 victims of abuse or neglect in Hawaii, and the numbers continue to increase. Of those, 4.4% were victims of sexual abuse, approximately 66. Our numbers in foster care do not address children currently at risk, or those who are victims of sex trafficking. It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of sexual abuse by the time they reach 18. These numbers are untenable.

31 states have enacted a model of "Erin's Law," providing prevention-oriented child sexual abuse education in their schools. Children are taught to recognize child sexual abuse and the warning signs, and to tell a trusted adult. Parents are also educated. Hawaii needs this version of "Erin's Law" in order to protect the future of our keiki.

For this reason, I ask that you vote in support of S.B. 2369 S.D. 2., and strongly urge that the appropriation occur before 2050.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephanie W. Batzer, Esq., MSW



We help kids





LATE

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018; 2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

TO: The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Sam Kong, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

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. 32 States have passed Erin's Law, and it has been introduced or is pending in the 18 remaining states. 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.



March 19, 2018

To: Hawai'i State House Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 (2:30 pm)
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 309
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –
Hawai'i in **SUPPORT of S.B. 2368 SD 2**, relating to
education

Dear Representative Justin H. Woodson (Chair), Representative Sam Satoru Kong (Vice Chair), and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 2368 SD 2**, relating to educational intervention with children on the topic of child sexual abuse.

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

Currently, only some schools provide any education about child sexual abuse to students and their families. Children deserve consistent education on this topic, no matter where they are educated in Hawai'i. This problem is found across the state, and it is not appropriate that education about its prevalence, identification, and reporting is not found across the state. All schools need to be implementing these important educational modules into their curriculums.

In conclusion, passage of S.B. 2368 SD 2 is an important step in improving education in Hawai'i, and bettering child health outcomes. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Susan J. Wurtzburg

Ph.D., Policy Chair

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

Advisory Board

President
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Kristen Bonilla

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Senator (ret.)
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Donne Dawson

Dennis Dunn

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David I. Haverly

Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Nadine Tenn Salle, MD

Deane Salter

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: March 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

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. 2
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong and members of the House Committee on Education:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.B. 2368 S.D. 2.

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.

The harm caused by sexual violence experienced in childhood can be profound. Physical consequences of child sexual abuse can include acute injuries, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancy, and long term effects such as chronic pain, gastrointestinal and gynecological disorders, and cervical cancer. Moreover, in the aftermath of sexual violence, survivors often develop chronic or episodic mental health conditions, including sleep, eating, and substance abuse disorders, generalized anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These consequences reverberate through the survivors' families and communities.

Child sexual abuse also exacts an enormous financial cost from society, 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 lasting, 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 32 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of the remaining 18 states.

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 childhood sexual violence.

We respectfully request that you please pass S.B. 2368 S.D. 2.



To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Wed., Mar. 21, 2018, 2:30 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 309
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2368, SD2

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.B. 2368, SD2. 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



SAFE KEIKI PROJECT: preventing child sexual abuse

135 S. Wakea Ave., Suite 213 · Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96732 · 808-385-0051 · www.safekeikiproject.com

From: Melisse Malone, Co-founder [Safe Keiki Project](#)

Submitted on: March 19, 2018

RE: Testimony in **Strong Support of SB2368-Erin's Law, Relating to Education**

Submitted to: Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sam Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Melisse Malone. I am testifying today in support of SB2368, Erin's Law. For the purposes of this testimony I will call it Erin's Law. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am a grandmother from Maui and co-founder of Safe Keiki Project, a non-profit foundation to help educate and protect Maui County children from sexual abuse and provide support for victims' healing through education, advocacy, counseling, and legislative lobbying. We have zero tolerance for abuse of any kind, but believe that sexual abuse requires special attention.

Sexual assault is a criminal sexual offense and form of child sexual abuse where an adult uses a minor for the purpose of sexual gratification. Sexual assault does not have to involve penetration or even touching, but includes any older person who engages in even looking or showing sexual behavior to the child victim to satisfy a sexual need.

Last October, it was an honor to attend and meet child sexual abuse survivor and originator of Erin's Law, Erin Merryn, at the Parents and Children Together talk in Honolulu. She was there to tell her story and inspire the community to join in the fight against child sexual abuse. Today I am inspired to be a part of that fight. Thirty-one states have already passed Erin's Law. I hope the State of Hawaii will be next leader to stand up to this fight against child sexual abuse.

According to The National Center For Victims of Crime, "...Child Sexual Abuse is often referred to as a "silent crime" because victims have difficulty coming forward. For victims, the act of coming forward takes great strength and courage. Child welfare experts agree that false accusations of CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CBA) are rare. When a child does disclose abuse, we should begin by believing."

Though I touched on my own story involving child sexual abuse in an earlier testimony, there are a few more things I thought about to say in this testimony about how the implementation of Erin's Law could have shaped a different outcome in my case had the awareness and education factors of Erin's Law been available to the teacher in my granddaughter's kindergarten class, to my granddaughter and to myself and acted upon. Prior to 2014, child sexual abuse was not on my radar, nor did I know the signs associated with abuse, nor what to do if a child were to disclose. I did not have the Child Welfare Services Hotline number in my contacts or dozens of family court lawyers or had I ever googled the National Center for Victims of Crime, the nation's leading advocacy organization that helps crime victims rebuild their lives. www.victimsofcrime.org

But now I do and somehow I also came across Erin Merryn's story a year ago and it gave me hope. That is why I am here today to support Erin's Law and to support my 9 year old granddaughter who disclosed to me in the summer of 2014, when she was 5 1/2 years old that she had been sexually assaulted by her mother's ex-boyfriend. Some of the assaults she described took place alone with him in his bed and had been ongoing since her 4th birthday party. She disclosed with physical gestures how he put a gun to her head saying he would shoot her and her family if she told anyone. She also shared consistent disclosures with 6 other adults and on 2 videotaped police interviews. Yet, concerning this case after 2 years and 2 trials, everything at every level that could go wrong, went wrong. Finally, the Judge chose not to believe the victim, but believed the non-biological perpetrator and gave him full custody. My granddaughter is silenced now and living with the perpetrator. Yet the disclosures remain in my heart as sharp with truth as the day she first spoke. Never for one moment did I not believe her and it is not her fault that her disclosures did not protect her. My experienced showed me that reporting a sexual assault disclosure is no guarantee that justice will be served for instead I was left alone with the word betrayal, face to face with a legal system that has the power to say, "no evidence, no case." Safe Keiki Project came together in 2016 to make sense of this tragedy and to take action on how to prevent child sexual abuse from ever happening again.

I believe Erin's Law would benefit all the families of Hawaii as it states that it would be to educate public school students from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate

curricula. This would take the burden off mothers and fathers who may be uncomfortable talking about sexual subjects. So this would be the first generation of keiki to receive this knowledge in a public setting across the state with their friends and peers sitting next to them. They can carry the knowledge home, creating a solid bridge of open communication between school and home and share their new empowerment with their parents. Home and school need to be on the same page like never before for that's the reality for the first 18 years of a child's life. That's where it all happens back and forth, back and forth. The balance of education must to be ironed out between the home and the school. Education at school will have to pick up the slack at home because this will no doubt be the first generation to be taught consistently...by school getting the ball rolling then the parents will come on board.. Another point came to mind if I understand correctly that all the students of the public school district in effect would be given sexual abuse prevention knowledge at the same time, so if a family had a child in kindergarten, a child in 5th grade and a senior in high school they would all be aware at the same time and have the skills to protect themselves and protect each other as brothers and sisters watch out for each other as well as the information the mother and father would have received. Again, at school, the victim will be educated by Erin's Law and her education of child sexual abuse and what appropriate relationships are suppose to look like will give the victim pause to reflect until the victim gathers the courage to come forward. Children who have not been abused will take the knowledge, know their boundaries and be the little warriors they can be and watch out for their classmates. And older students will watch out for younger students.

Another situation that is difficult is all the secrecy and grooming of the child victim by the perpetrator. Sexual assault between the perpetrator and his victim is a fortress built of their shared secret kept in place by not only threats, but by treats, rewards, and attention. Some victims are groomed and brainwashed so carefully that the victim is conditioned to believe that the sexual assault is an "act of love." This psychological twisting and manipulation of the thought processes of the victim, I find more traumatizing to learn about than the physical sexual assault. I have also come to understand that the victims apparent acceptance of the sexual assault may be a coping and survival behavior. With Erin's Law education, a light might be lit in a victim's confused mind. There is so much shame and silence and disbelief around sexual assault that the conversation, the education, and the training must be ongoing, consistent and repeated every year because sexual abuse is an ongoing threat.

With Erin's Law, Keiki will learn techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and receive tools that encourage them to report incidents of sexual abuse. This is the moment that my granddaughter would have benefited from had Erin's Law been in place during her year in kindergarten. It's hard to say if she would have had the courage at that time to disclose, but the point is the subject would have been aired out in the open and it would have been noted in

her mind. If she did receive the training and had disclosed to her teacher, the abuse could have ended there. I wanted to share why I think it is even better if a child that is being sexually abused were to be able to tell a teacher. Again, this would happen if Erin's Law is in place. There is a difference in that if the child reports with his/her own voice to a mandated school teacher his/her disclosures will be readily believed as opposed to if the child discloses to a parent/grandparent and the parent then reports to the police on behalf of the child... questions will arise. And then it is very difficult for a parent to not be "biased" and emotional upon hearing about how his/her child was abused. This is important point because my testimony was called by the judge in my case not credible because I showed that I believed every word of my granddaughter and that meant I was "biased." If I child tells a teacher, the teacher will not be "biased." So that is my experience that a first-hand disclosure by the child in his or her own voice at school would be far more accepted and clear of issues than from a disclosure in the home.

According to US Dept. of Justice Facts and Statistics webpage "... of all family members, mothers are most likely to be told and of all professionals, teachers are the most likely to be told. <https://www.nsopw.gov>

Please pass SB2368 Erin's Law.

I am sharing my story so that you have no doubt about how powerful and effective Erin's Law will be for the families of Hawaii, for the sake of the Keiki. And I want my granddaughter to have that option too, that doorway provided by the open communication at her school, that passageway to safety and freedom when her brainwashing has dissolved and she gathers the strength within her again to report her abuse. I can say now through my experience that without a doubt that the definition of childhood innocence has new meaning in this world and it means childhood awareness, that children from this day forth deserve the right to protect themselves, arm themselves with knowledge about every aspect of their bodies and minds, assert themselves with awareness of who they are and be told the truth as to what kind of world they are living in, that along with all the beauty, sweetness and light there are people unfortunately who want to hurt others and should their paths cross they will be ready and confident of what to do. Through honest education, I think children would be so empowered and ahead of the game and happy that adults have told them the truth...that they would grow up trusting life more. The truth of life belongs to those in childhood. Wisdom belongs to those in childhood. The childhood that is being lived by the keiki of Hawaii now today deserve this respect. I want more for my granddaughter for her life. I have read all the horrifying statistics of child sexual abuse, but for me the abuse of one child is enough to speak up for change. I want her to grow up in a culture that does not allow any child to ever be touched or abused. Erin's Law is a start..to

educate children to protect themselves, educate teachers and inform parents and may it lead to better informed law enforcement, prosecutors, lawyers and judges.

The Keiki of Hawaii deserve and have a right to knowledge that will empower and protect them from danger. Their intelligence must be respected...The Keiki know what's going on. They watch their parents. They can see everything.

Please pass SB2368-Erin's Law. You will sleep better tonight.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melisse Malone

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:40:53 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Virginia Cantorna	Safe Keiki Project	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:29:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:36:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:54:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 7:21:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony in support of Erin's Law. One out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys are sexually assaulted before reaching the age of 18. Sexual violence has a life long impact on the survivors. Please help the youth with sexual abuse prevention education.

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Committee on Education:

I am a survivor of childhood sex abuse and support SB 2368 SD2.

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. Please pass SB2368 SD2 and help prevent future childhood sex abuse.

Mahalo,

Andre Bisquera

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:50:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Sato	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

Jacqueline Sato

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Support for S.B. 2368_ S2

My name is Jacqueline Sato and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I would like to testify my support for S.B. 2368. As a student and work experience, I have gained insight on the detrimental effects of childhood sexual abuse, which may include psychological trauma, impairment in healthy childhood development and long term health effects.

The population that I have had the privilege to work with have shared their experiences of the trauma they've endured and make it a priority to make their own children safe. I feel that by providing educational tools on the prevention of childhood sexual abuse to parents, educators and other professionals, this would promote the safety and overall healthy development in children. I truly believe that children learn and do well when they are in a safe and nurturing environment, and by providing the education on the

prevention of childhood sexual abuse, children would prevent victimization and instill empowerment.

I am in support of SB2368, to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through an age appropriate curriculum. As mentioned in SB2368, one in four girls and one in six boys will be the victim of sexual abuse by their eighteenth birthday. My hope is that through prevention measures, the statistics will be significantly decreased. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on an important manner.

LATE

TESTIMONY

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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

Executive Director
Khara Jabola-Carolus

Email: kjabola-carolus@dhs.hawaii.gov

235 S. Beretania #407
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Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 20, 2018

LATE

To: Rep. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Kong, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the H. Committee on Education

From: Khara Jabola-Carolus
Executive Director
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, SB2368, SD2

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of SB2368, SD2, which mandates and funds a sexual abuse prevention curriculum and training 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. If you cannot name the problem, you cannot solve it.

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 reported to child welfare.

This law would mandate curricula system wide, resulting in safer students. The Commission strongly supports SB 2368, SD2 and respectfully requests that the Committees pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

LATE



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2368, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO EDUCATION

House Committee on Education
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Hon. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Woodson 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 2, 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



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

March 21, 2018

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

LATE

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

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 2368, SD2, Relating to Education**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, March 21, 2018, 2:30 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 2368, SD2, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education to establish a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age-appropriate curricula.

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

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

It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. It is critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from sexual abuse.

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

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

LATE

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:28:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kimura	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies	Support	No

Comments:

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and well-being of children and young people in the State of Hawaii. Nationally, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been the victim of sexual assault in their lifetimes. Of these, 44% were under the age of 18 at the time of the assault.

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 the combined efforts of the State Department of Education (DOE), teachers from both public and private schools, and the University of Hawaii's Teacher Institute of Education, implementation of age-appropriate, evidence-based sexual abuse prevention education curricula is reportedly not consistent system-wide, and resources for the provision of training and education are limited.

Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular, consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents informed about child abuse topics. In addition, many school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting. This would be a positive step towards ensuring system-wide sexual abuse prevention education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

TIME: 2:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 309

LATE

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2368 know as Erin's Law

Aloha Chair Woodson Vice Chair Kong, and members,

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

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

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

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

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

Contact: annsfreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676

LATE

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:21:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CHELSEA HILL	SAFE KEIKI PROJECT	Support	Yes

Comments:

FROM: CHELSEA HILL, CO-FOUNDER OF SAFE KEIKI PROJECT

SUBMITTED: MARCH 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2368-ERIN'S LAW**, relating to EDUCATION

SUBMITTED TO: Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair

Rep. Sam Kong, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Good Afternoon, Chairs Woodson and Kong and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Hill. I live in Kula, Maui. I am here in support of passing ERIN'S LAW. SB 2368.

IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN ADULTS.

I have a 12-year-old daughter.

When my daughter was in Kindergarten in 2011, they gave her a book called "Safe Touch". What a great book for a 5 year old! It had pictures and taught about GOOD TOUCH, BAD TOUCH and SECRET TOUCH. It taught the children that Bad Touch was NEVER the child's fault, NO MATTER WHAT. It taught the children to tell a trusted adult if they experienced BAD touch and/or SECRET touch.

My daughter and I read this book together many times over during those early years. Even though there was no communication or lessons for the parents, and no on-going

educational program for my daughter, that one book she received in Kindergarten helped me to explain to her these simple safety rules, in simple, age-appropriate terms.

Oddly, I seemed to be the only parent who paid so much attention to this book. The other parents I spoke with were unaware of the GOOD-TOUCH / BAD-TOUCH lesson that our children had been taught at school, and were more or less unaware of the book.

If the school had had a more comprehensive program, the children and the families would have been more prepared for this prolific nightmare that too many of our children are experiencing. I have read statistics as horrifying as 1 in 4 girls have experienced sexual abuse before the age of 18, and 1 in 5 boys.

In fact, 3 years later, in 2014, the nightmare came home to us, when the 5 year old girl who lived next door to us and who came over often to play, and whom I often took care of for her working mother, disclosed to me that her mother and her boyfriend had been sexually abusing her. She told me that HE had licked her vagina. And had threatened her with guns if she told anybody. She was concerned that he would hurt my daughter too and told me to tell her to stay away from his property.

I reported this to the police. No arrests were made.

Erin's Law SB 2368 proposes to prevent the sexual abuse of children by requiring the department of education 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 about important child sexual abuse topics.

How could that little girl's story have been different? How could her nightmare reality have been avoided? There is no single, simple answer to this, but without question EDUCATION of the children, EDUCATION of the school teachers and staff, and INFORMED parents is a VERY good place to start. It's the only place we have.

**Children should be free to live a life free from sexual abuse. And, it is easier to build strong children than to REPAIR broken adults.

Please pass SB 2368 into law today in the effort to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

Thank you,

Chelsea Hill

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LATE

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Eunice Lee
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Support for S.B. 2368_ S2

Good morning. My name is Eunice Lee and I am currently a Social Work student in the master's program at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on S.B 2368, which I would like to testify my support of.

As a student, through my previous work experience, and through my practicum experience I've had the opportunities to learn and see how sexual trauma can affect a human-- whether child or adult. I've seen how devastating and hard it is for even stable adults to process and report sexual abuse that has happened to them. I feel that the main reason for this, besides the fact that it is mentally and emotionally debilitating, is the fear. Fear of not know who to tell, who will trust them, who can they trust, what will others think of them, and the list just goes on.

However, I feel that these fears can be addressed if there was more talk—more education—about sexual abuse. I believe education will help promote a safer environment for students to grow in and empower them to take the right steps, by being confident with what steps to take and knowing that there are staff knowledgeable in the subject area to help them. Furthermore, the more informed people are, the less stigma there will be towards victims, which in turn will make it that much more easier for victims to speak out.

I truly believe that with more education on sexual abuse to students and to school staff members, we will be able to help prevent instances of sexual abuse, foster a safe environment for students to report instances, give a voice to those who were silenced.

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:15:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terese I Masters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a sexual abuse survivor. I was abused by the people that ran my daycare. Despite exhibiting signs of abuse and spiraling into a self-destructive worm hole for 30 years, not a single family member or teacher picked up on the signs. If someone had trained my teachers what to look for, maybe I could have gotten help a lot sooner.

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:45:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:28:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Zimmerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support this bill

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 4:15:11 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 11:07:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2018 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marci Lopes	Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	No

Comments: