



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

Date: 02/05/2018
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Labor

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2368 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 reports to the legislature on the status of implementation. Makes an appropriation.

Department's Position:

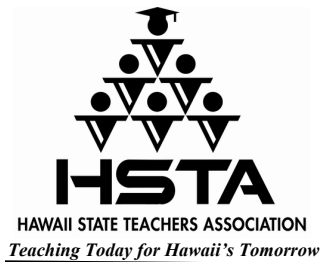
The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the important role of public education in child sexual abuse prevention. The Department is actively seeking input from a broad array of school administrators regarding the programmatic implementation and resource requirements mandated by this proposal.

Respectfully, the Department suggests that the Legislature consider recommending that the Board of Education (Board) review the language in SB 2368 for adoption as Board policy, rather than the passage of an education program mandated by statute.

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.

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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Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION and LABOR

RE: SB 2368 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

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

Executive Director
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Date: February 5, 2018

To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor

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
Relating to Education

Good [morning/afternoon] Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

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

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.

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.

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.

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 2, 2018

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
And members of the Committee on Labor

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2368 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2368 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 prominent "F".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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

February 5, 2018

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor

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

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 2368, Relating to Education**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 5, 2018, 2:45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 2368, 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 committees 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.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2368, RELATING TO EDUCATION

Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Labor
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. J. Kalani English

Monday, February 5, 2018, 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda, 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, 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



DATE: Monday, February 5, 2018; 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

TO: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

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 of 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. Unfortunately, evil exists among us. 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.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
1010 Richard Street, #118, Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: seac.hawaii@gmail.com

February 5, 2018

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
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Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
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Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Mr. Gavin Villar
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*
Dr. Christina Tydeman, *liaison
to the Superintendent*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2368 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chairs Kidani and Tokuda and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of S.B. 2368 that requires the Department of Education to establish and implement a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

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

Given the heightened risk of sexual abuse being perpetrated upon students with disabilities, it is imperative that all prevention and early intervention efforts include curricula that are tailored to the individual learning needs of these students.

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

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
SEAC Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senator Kaialii'i Kahele, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Labor

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2368 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hearing: February 5, 2018, 2:45 pm, CR 229

Thank you for allowing us to testify **in support of Senate Bill 2368**, which requires the Department of Education to establish a sexual abuse prevention program that will educate students, train faculty and staff and inform parents.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. This bill supports the mental health of Hawai'i's youth by giving them the knowledge and skills to help prevent sexual abuse.

Childhood sexual abuse has serious immediate and lasting mental health implications which can have detrimental effects on victim's lives. The impact of child sexual abuse includes: fear, shame, sense of helplessness, loss of self-esteem, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, social phobia, eating disorders, substance use and difficulties with relationships.¹ The risk for suicidal thoughts increases for both male and female victims of child sex abuse.² Additionally, victims of child sex abuse are more than twice as likely than non-victims to report a suicide attempt.²

In Hawai'i, over 50% of victims served at The Sex Abuse Treatment Center are under age 17 at the time of the abuse.³ Nationally, law enforcement agencies report that 67% of sexual assault victims were under 18 years of age, 34% were under 12 years of age, and 14% were six years old or younger.⁴ These alarming statistics combined with the mental health implications of childhood sexual abuse outlined in recent studies calls for a serious effort to raise awareness as well as educate both children and adults in how to prevent the abuse of children.

Thank you for considering my testimony **in support of SB 2368**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

¹ Springer, K., Sheridan, J., Kuo, D., & Carnes, M. (2003). The long-term health outcomes of childhood abuse: An overview and a call to action. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 18(10): 864-870.

² Darkness To Light (www.d2l.org)

³ The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (satchawaii.com)

⁴ Snyder, H. (2000). Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics. Washington, DC: US. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:55:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Domestic Violence Action Center is in support of SB 2368 Erin's Law. Hawaii must do all that we can to educate children to protect them against being victims of sexual abuse, and to know who to go to if they have been abused.



To: Hawaii State Senate Committees on Education and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, Feb. 5, 2018, 2:45 p.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2368

Dear Chairs Kidani and Tokuda and Members of the Committees,

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: more than half of the many thousands of survivors on O‘ahu that have historically received services from the Sex Abuse Treatment Center 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.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie Temple Field

Hawaii Legislative Director

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
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Laniākea YWCA
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
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ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 5, 2018, 2:45 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229

Re: Testimony in support of S.B 2368, 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**, 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.

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

YWCA IS ON A MISSION



DATE: February 5, 2018

TO: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Committee on Labor
And the Members of the Committees on Education and Labor

FROM: Lisa Dunn, Executive Vice-President and Director of Programs
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.

RE: SB 2368, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

POSITION: Strong Support

Chair Kidani and Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee on
Education and Labor:

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB
2368.

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii believes that each child is resilient,
creative, courageous and strong and deserves every opportunity to thrive
to their fullest potential. Children who have been traumatized by sexual
abuse need special ongoing support to help them become healthy and
successful adults. The Children's Alliance of Hawaii is dedicated to
providing caring support for children who have been sexually abused,
offering hope for the future.

However, before we can offer this support to children, we need them to
help us know that they are being abused. We need them to come
forward and reveal the abuse. Every day we serve children who have
been sexually abused, often for weeks, months and even years and did
not report the abuse because they did not understand what was
happening to them and did not have the capability to describe the abuse
to someone who could help them.

Those youth who do understand the sexual abuse often internalize the
blame for the abuse that is being perpetrated against them. Until the
child is able to come forward, the information regarding the abuse is
being provided by the abuser. This means that the abuser has the power
over the child to further manipulate and further isolate them, severely
hindering the child's capability to come forward. The lack of necessary
sexual abuse education leaves the power of education and

A. JAMES WRISTON, JR., Esq.
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MEREDITH LOW

PENELOPE ROGERS

PATTI PETRI ROSE



misinformation in the hands of the abuser. This must be changed. All children have the right to know what is happening to them. They have the right to the knowledge that can help them to stop the sexual abuse and to reach out to adults who can help.

I could tell you story after story of children who didn't know, didn't understand, and thought that it was their fault. Education and knowledge can help children to come forward and hopefully to also stop abuse before it happens. Our schools have a unique capability to reach our youth. Our children look to their teachers and school counselors to provide them with information to keep them safe We also have professionals in our community-based organization that have the knowledge, training, and skills needed. As described in SB 2368, Hawaii's schools and community-based agencies together, could provide our children with the necessary education.

Please pass SB 2368 out of your Committees. Thank you.

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 1:31:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxanne Darling	Bare Feet Studios LLC	Support	No

Comments:



SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION and LABOR

TESTIMONY—SB 2368, Relating to Education

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda, and committee members,

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

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

Sex trafficking is the compulsion of a person into prostitution by force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers often use intermediate and high school students to build their fortunes, preying upon teenage insecurities, sexual impulses, socioeconomic

impoverishment, and, more recently, social media access to recruit, groom, and “break in” our youth for the sex trade. Victims of sex trafficking are highly traumatized to the point that they lose their sense of identity, sometimes becoming so dehumanized that they can no longer understand the concept of rape. Moreover, modern technology has made it easier to reach and threaten victims, as information is readily available on the internet. Online technology can also be weaponized to humiliate individuals through the rapid distribution of nonconsensual pornography.

UNITE employs a standards-based anti-trafficking curriculum that includes a post assessment and service learning component. At each school we visit, students have identified themselves or their peers as in danger or in the midst of being trafficked. Our model is under constant revision to maximize its compliance with best educational practices and newly enacted education policies, is overseen by professional educators and education specialists, and comports with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

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

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:57:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 3:51:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Hill		Support	No

Comments:

I know a little girl who could have been saved from sexual abuse had her school been more prepared for for her case. Please pass Erin's Law in law.

Date: February 5, 2018

2:45pm

Conference Room 229

To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Labor

From: Trisha Good (407) 668-0861

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of S.B. 2368

Good [morning/afternoon] Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the
Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Trisha Good. I am testifying in strong support of S.B. 2368. Sexual abuse has and will continue to be a threat to children everywhere. 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. With statistics like this, chances are you know someone who has themselves been a victim of sexual assault. Something must change. The current system is broken, and we are failing 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys. Passing S.B. 2368 can be that catalyst for change.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) in partnership with the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) deliver age-appropriate, evidence-based curricula in Hawai'i's elementary schools. The implementation of these laws will lead to programs that can train teachers, counselors, and administrators with the tools to recognize and hopefully prevent sexual abuse in minors. Most importantly, these programs would teach children how to protect themselves against abuse and provide them with trusted adults they can come to help end abuse.

I respectfully ask that you please pass S.B. 2368. Thank you for your time and attention.

Trisha Good

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:44:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	NONE	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda and members of Senate Education and Senate Labor Committees,

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.

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 11:13:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yelena Kogan	Self	Support	No

Comments:

Please kindly provide education to young women and men on sexual abuse and harrasment. This is extremely important as not all parents educate their children on what is okay and not okay. This is a very important topic for children to be schooled in.

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 12:39:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nako?olani Warrington		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2368

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 1:35:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Education &
Senate Committee on Labor
Chair Michelle N. Kidani (EDU)
Chair Jill N. Tokuda (LBR)
Vice Chair Kaialii Kahele (EDU)
Vice Chair J. Kalani English (LBR)

Re: SB 2368
February 5, 2018 2:45 am
Conference Room 229

Dear Honorable Chair Kidani, Chair Tokuda and committee members:

My name is Genine Tacadena and I am a graduate student/MSW candidate at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and I am submitting this testimony in full support of SB 2368.

I am aware of what sexual abuse looks like and how I can avoid and prevent becoming a victim of such. This is mostly due to the fact that I am a graduate student and have been educated on topics such as sexual abuse through my college curriculum. Unfortunately, I don't know if I can say the same for those younger than I am, those still in high school, who are not educated about sexual abuse and what it entails.

In my free time, I enjoy watching gymnastics. I am sure you are all aware of what happened with disgraced former team doctor, Larry Nassar, and how he was able to sexually abuse more than a hundred young women, most of whom were minors when the abuse took place. I have followed the case closely, and while I don't doubt that Mr. Nassar is to blame for the disgusting acts he committed against these women, I also can't help but wonder what would have happened if the survivors in this case received *consistent* education on sexual abuse.

Most of the survivors were minors, and after watching their impact statements, most stated that they didn't know they were being abused. Yes, they had been taught about what it was, but not in the context of how it could occur and by whom. This is why programs such as the one proposed in SB 2368 are so important because it will address things like vulnerability, characteristics of offenders and what grooming is and what it looks like.

I'd also like to point out that the key word here is *consistency*. It's not just a matter of teaching students about sexual abuse, but also to provide regular and *consistent* education. Safety of Hawaii's youth should be a priority, and safety is achieved through regular and consistent education, like that of the one SB 2368 proposes.

Sexual abuse continues to be a threat and education is needed, *now*. To ensure the safety and well being that Hawaii's children so righteously deserve, I ask that your committees support this bill.

Thank you,
Genine T.

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, Committee on Education members, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, and Committee on Labor members:

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

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 everyday 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 given me the words to voice what was happening to me.

Thank you very much,

Andre Bisquera