



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2908, RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or
Albert Cook, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

This bill appropriates \$500,000 from the state general fund for the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program (ICAC) is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing more than 4,500 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. These agencies are engaged in both proactive and reactive investigations, forensic examinations, and criminal prosecutions of internet crimes against children. By helping federal, state, and local agencies develop effective, sustainable responses to online child victimization – including responses to child sexual abuse images, the ICAC Program has increased law enforcements capacity to combat technology-facilitated crimes against children at every level.

The ICAC Program was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teenagers using the Internet and other technology, the proliferation of child sexual abuse images available electronically, and the heightened online activity by predators seeking unsupervised contact with potential underage victims. Because ICAC members understand that arrests alone cannot resolve the problem of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, the ICAC Program is also dedicated to training law

enforcement officers and prosecutors, as well as educating parents and youth about the potential dangers of online activity.

The Hawaii ICAC unit, within the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, serves the citizens of the State of Hawaii by both investigating and prosecuting ICAC crimes, and by heading the Hawaii ICAC Task Force, which provides training, equipment, expertise, and logistical support to the law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies in the State of Hawaii as well as in the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

In 2017, the Hawaii ICAC Task Force received 453 investigative leads involving internet crimes against children but was only able to investigate 239 of those tips resulting in only 23 arrests. Additionally, there were 1,177 separate computers in Hawaii offering to distribute child sexual abuse images to anyone connected to certain file sharing networks. The Hawaii ICAC Task Force simply does not have the resources to investigate and prosecute all these cases.

In most of the 61 ICAC units heading up the other task forces, states provide funding in addition to the federal grant. In almost all other ICAC units, the investigators are provided for and funded by the state or local government. Grant moneys are used for investigative and prosecutorial training in the ever evolving arena of electronic and digital crimes against children and technological equipment to allow investigators to proactively investigate those exploiting children online. Hawaii's ICAC unit is unique in that we have had to use the majority of our grant moneys to pay for salaries of our investigators and use the remaining grant moneys for training and equipment. By necessity, 2 of the 3 positions in the Hawaii ICAC unit are temporary because present funding does not provide for full time positions with benefits. The Hawaii ICAC unit is presently limited to hiring retired law enforcement officers as 89 day hires as a way to limit costs.

This bill would greatly help the Hawaii ICAC unit to hire full-time investigators and then use the federal grant moneys to continue to train investigators and prosecutors in the task force to keep up with the ever evolving technological and legal landscape of internet crimes against children.

For the forgoing reasons the Department of the Attorney General supports passage of this bill.

LATE

SB-2908

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 12:07:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, February 2, 2018
9:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2908, RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2908, relating to the AG's Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2908 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2908, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the AG's Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and requires the Task Force to submit a report to the Legislature. Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[w]e support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors. . . . We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive." (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Line 273, P. 4, Lines 186-187 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2908 appropriates funds to the AG's Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2908

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:57:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate	Support	No

Comments:

Good Morning Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members,

I would just like to STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you all to support SB2908 as I cannot stress enough the important, crucial and critical nature of the work the task force undertakes in the effort to safeguard our children from predators hunting them on the internet.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.

SB-2908

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:32:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Ishikawa Delizo	Dept. Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui SUPPORTS SB 2908 to address the dangers from the growing use of the internet by children and teenagers, by providing funding to develop programs to promote internet safety, investigate, and prosecute offenders. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.