



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

Date: 02/11/2019
Time: 03:30 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0477 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Allows the Department of Education to provide sex trafficking prevention training to certain staff. Requires DOE to make available to certain staff explanatory information about protocols that DOE has approved for providing services to victims of sex trafficking.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 477, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Board of Education approved budget. The Department supports efforts to disseminate information to its employees that supports the health and welfare of all its students.

In addition, should the Committee move the bill forward, the Department recommends the following language change in the bill:

Page 1, Line #5: "department may offer ~~voluntary training~~ information on resources for teachers employees."

Page 1, Line #6: "~~educational officers, and school-based behavioral health~~"

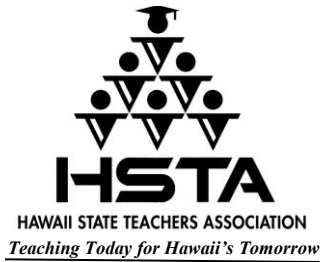
Page 1, Line #7: "~~specialists~~ on sex trafficking prevention and response,"

Page 2, Line #6 - #10: DELETE

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 477.

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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Corey Rosenlee
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Vice President
Logan Okita
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Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 477 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

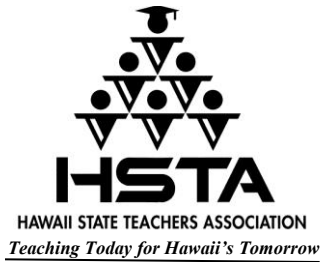
The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports** SB 477, relating to education.

SB 477 would allow the Hawaii Department of Education to provide sex trafficking prevention training to certain staff. It also requires HODOE to make available to certain staff explanatory information about protocols that HODOE has approved for providing services to victims of sex trafficking.

Schools are, perhaps, the main 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 maltreatment.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. 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. While programs currently exist to train teachers and staff in handling sexual trauma that often accompanies abuse and neglect, implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important for teachers to be informed on how to prevent sexual trauma and handle related incidents on campus. At a time when the number of sex trafficking victims being identified in our state's childcare and education systems is on the rise, anti-trafficking lessons are especially crucial to combat student exploitation and effectively implement new protocols coordinated by the Hawaii Department of



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Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family Courts.

Sex trafficking is differentially defined as the use of “force, fraud, or coercion” to compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who should be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com.

The average age of a victim's entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of “solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks” (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual abuse, so must we safeguard against the related crime of sex trafficking and provide educators with the tools needed to provide trauma-informed care in their classrooms.

To protect our keiki from sexual exploitation, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** SB 477.

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

Collins Consulting, LLC

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 Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

February 9, 2019

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 477 RELATING TO EDUCATION WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR AMENDMENTS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 373 Relating to Education with recommendation for amendments.

HYSN believes that it is important to prepare school personnel to prevent sex trafficking and meet the needs of victims.

Sex trafficking, however, is only one form of sexual abuse and only a small percentage of victims of sexual abuse have experienced sex trafficking. Training should address the full range of forms of sexual abuse and sexual violence that students may experience.

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 or trafficking 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.

HYSN strongly recommends that the bill be amended as shown below (new material in caps and bold print):

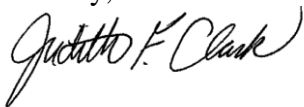
"§302A- **Sex trafficking prevention training.** (a) The department may offer voluntary training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on **SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking prevention and response, including:

- (1) **Methods used to lure children into SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking;
- (2) **Identifying victims of SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking;
- (3) **Effects of SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking on a victim's social, mental, and physical health;
- (4) **Strategies to assist in the prevention of SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking of children;
- (5) **Trauma-informed strategies for responding to victims of SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking;
- (6) **Informational resources for victims of SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking; and
- (7) **Information on agencies that provide services to students who have been identified as victims of SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking or who are at risk of victimization.

(b) At the beginning of each school year, explanatory information about protocols that the department has approved for providing services to victims of **SEXUAL ABUSE AND** sex trafficking shall be made available to teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



1431 Ehupua St. Honolulu, HI 96821 · (808) 854-1148

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY—SB 477, Relating to Education

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kidani 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, even after the passage of the federal FOSTA law to curb online prostitution activity. Yet, these 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 organization devoted to ending sex trafficking. 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.

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

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Date: February 11, 2019

To: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 477 with Comments
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports S.B. 477, and respectfully submits additional comments for the Committee's consideration.

Sex trafficking – the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or the coercive commercial sexual exploitation of any person – is a form of modern-day slavery, with significant and often lifelong medical, psychological, and social consequences for victims. Therefore, it is important that educators receive appropriate training to understand sex trafficking and its impact on children and young people; to identify victims and respond to their needs in a trauma-informed and appropriate manner; and to participate in preventative programs.

According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex trafficking of Minors in the United States (2013), "identifying risk factors for commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors is necessary to understand the etiology of these problems and to inform interventions for preventing and addressing them."

Chief among these risk factors is a history of childhood abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, particularly sexual abuse and assault experienced in childhood. Additionally, a key feature of sex trafficking is the frequent use of sexual violence by traffickers and buyers (also referred to colloquially as "Johns") to first groom and then dominate and control victims.

This is further supported by the results of a 2018 study conducted by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Arizona State University's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention, which engaged in a qualitative review of the experience of nearly two dozen sex trafficking victims in their families in Hawai'i. In relevant

part, the study found that one of the greatest risk factors for sex trafficking found in the group of victims was the experience of sexual abuse and assault in childhood, with 72.7% reporting childhood sexual molestation with an average age at the time of the first incident of 8.23 years old. Consequently, one of the study report's key recommendations was that our state's response to sex trafficking should include sexual violence prevention education in public schools (Erin's Law).

Therefore, we respectfully offer a suggested amendment on page 1, line 13, that the training program to be established by the Department include "(4) Strategies to assist in the prevention of sex trafficking of children, including the prevention of child sexual abuse and identifying and helping children experiencing sexual abuse and assault."

We also ask that the Committee please consider supporting Erin's Law legislation for a working group or taskforce consisting of Department and other government and community stakeholders to establish a program for consistent and system wide sexual violence prevention education, including sex trafficking, for students and training for Department staff in Hawai'i public schools.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 477.



SB 477, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 11, 2019 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports SB 477, relating to education, which allows the Department of Education to provide sex trafficking prevention training to certain staff and requires DOE to make available to certain staff explanatory information about protocols that DOE has approved for providing services to victims of sex trafficking.

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.

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.

SB-477

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 1:46:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-477

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 6:38:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: