



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

Date: 03/22/2019
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Resolution: SCR 074 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER AGENCY AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE MEETING AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 74 as it aligns to its vision that ensures all of Hawaii's children are provided with opportunities that foster health, safety, education, school readiness, and success. The Department recognizes the important role of public education in addressing sexual-violence prevention and respectfully offers comments.

The Department's school design strategy prioritizes a flexible and adaptive approach, empowering each school to make decisions about specific contexts and partnerships for developing high quality and relevant learning experiences based on the needs of their students' and the local community. Within the Department, a tri-level system comprised of the complex areas and state offices respond and provide multiple instructional supports to ensure a safe and secure school campus and response to mitigate risky behaviors and promote healthy choices by our youth.

The Department established a workgroup, including the Department Health and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, in October 2018 to coordinate a comprehensive response to address sexual violence prevention. The work group's goal is to galvanize a collective multi-agency commitment to exploring an array of strategies, activities, and resources around sexual violence prevention in Hawaii's public schools.

The Department remains committed to supporting students' academic, social, physical and emotional health and providing a safe and protective learning environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 74.

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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Date: March 22, 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 Strong Support of S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74
Encouraging the Department of Education and other agency and
community stakeholders to continue meeting as a working group for
sexual violence prevention education in public schools.

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

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii.

Our local experience is instructive: 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. In addition, we note that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013 - 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii experience sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their mainland counterparts, and in some Hawaii counties these rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United States.

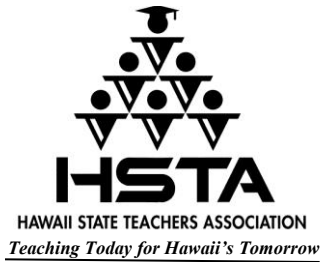
Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect and non-violence. Moreover, it is critical that parents, educators, and school staff receive sufficient training and information to understand key sexual violence issues and how to respond appropriately.

Recognizing this need, the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health (DOH), and SATC are working together and gathering a group of government

and community stakeholders to review and improve the delivery of sexual violence prevention education and training in Hawaii.

S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74 would further support this effort by encouraging the voluntarily convened working group to continue meeting, and by requesting that the group timely report to the Legislature and the Board of Education about the progress of our work and relevant policy and resource recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.R. 52 and S.C.R. 74.



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Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SR52/SCR74 -ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER AGENCY AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE MEETING AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SR 52/SCR 74**, encouraging the Department of Education and other agency and community stakeholders to continue meeting as a working group for sexual violence prevention education in public schools.

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 help protect children in danger of sexual violence and exploitation.

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. Programs currently exist, in Hawai'i, to train teachers and staff, and provide sexual violence prevention education and support for students of sexual violence, but implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent. It is important that both teachers and students be informed on how to prevent sexual violence and who to turn to for support if it unfortunately occurs.

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We are thankful that this working group covers sex trafficking as well. Anti-trafficking lessons are frequently requested by public school teachers to combat student exploitation and are included in coordinated protocols being developed for the Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family Courts. Sex trafficking is differentially defined from sexual abuse as the use of "force, fraud, or coercion" in 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 being heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including sexual abuse.

Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also prime 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 violence and abuse, so must we safeguard against the closely related crime of sexual exploitation and provide educators with the tools needed to ease victims' reentry into the classroom setting.

To protect our keiki from sexual exploitation and sexual violence, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **support** SR 52/SCR 74.