



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

Date: 04/11/2019
Time: 09:15 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Health

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.

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

April 8, 2019

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

And Members of the Committee on Education and Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR 52/SCR 74 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE TO MEET AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL-VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SR 52/SCR 74 Encouraging the Department Of Education and Other Stakeholders to Continue to Meet as a Working Group for Sexual-Violence Prevention Education in Public Schools.

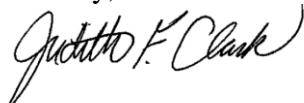
One in five girls and one in twenty boys have been victims of child sexual abuse. Three out of four adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. About 50% of those currently receiving services for sexual assault are under the age of 18 further emphasizing the need for sustainable prevention programs for youth. (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. It is our hope that education will be continued to be provided in Hawaii's public schools to decrease this growing epidemic.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

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Date: April 11, 2019

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

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.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 in public schools.

Good morning Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports 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.

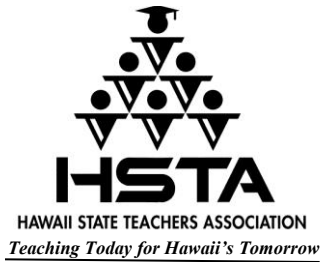
Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves against sexual assault, obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible, and create a strong culture of respect 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.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.C.R. 74.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RE: 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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports 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.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013 – 2017, it 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.



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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.

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** SCR 74.

SCR-74

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 11:13:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus supports the intent of SCR 74 but wants to make sure there is a representative for the LGBTQIA community.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair
LGBT Caucus of the DPH

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 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

Hearing: April 11, 2019, 9:15 am, CR 329

Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in support of SCR 74. 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 measure supports the mental health of Hawai'i's youth by making some progress towards 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 as 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 an urgent effort to raise awareness as well as educate both children and adults in how to prevent the abuse of children. Ultimately we would like to see the adoption and implementation of Erin's Law.

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.



**Parents And
Children Together**
BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

LATE

TO: Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Health

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: April 11, 2019; 9:15 a.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 74

We support SCR 74 and SR 52 and offer comments. We thank the legislature for recognizing this area of critical importance and we thank all the Departments and agencies committed to safety and education of children for their work on this issue thus far. We are heartened by this working group encouraging the DOE and other stakeholders to meet for sexual-violence prevention in public schools. At the same time, we are also concerned that, in the meantime, our keiki will continue to learn and grow unprotected from and possibly unaware of predatory abuse because of lack of education, especially in light of recent news both nationally and here in Hawaii. If our intent is to truly educate and protect our keiki from acts of sexual abuse, we would like to encourage the legislature to recognize the sense of urgency and reconsider passing Erin's Law next session.

The abuse is devastating and will continue to happen while the working group convenes:

- 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 victims of child sexual abuse will continue:

- 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 will continue:

- 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.

Suggested legislation has already been presented and has come through the legislature in previous years, which we strongly support. We believe that with Erin's Law, 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.

In most cases the only "information" a child is getting on this issue is from their 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. Passing the law is the only way that we can provide the education and tools to children to speak up and seek help. Again we appreciate and applaud the willingness to work towards this important legislation. Our schools

provide the conduit for the proper age-appropriate education to be delivered on a consistent basis and are the primary connections between keiki, parents and communities.

Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. While a working group is well-intentioned and appreciated, we think that passing and implementing Erin's Law is the right and best thing to do. There is no argument against it – cost, time, safety, health all support passing Erin's Law when we get the chance next session. 35 States have passed Erin's Law, and it has been introduced or is pending in the 15 remaining states, including Hawaii. 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 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and testify in **support of SCR 74 and SR 52**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.