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**Date:** April 1, 2019

**To:** The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**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. 8 and S.R. 4  
URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL  
ABUSE OF MINORS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII BY CLERGY OF THE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.C.R. 8 and S.R. 4.

Child sexual abuse has severe and devastating physical, emotional, social, and financial consequences for victims, their families, and their communities, which can last throughout a victim's lifetime.

In Hawaii, more than half of the victims who receive services at local sexual assault centers were younger than age 18 at the time they experienced abuse. Moreover, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey outcomes for 2013, 2015, and 2017 indicate that children and youth in Hawaii experience lifetime and past-year sexual violence at higher rates than their mainland peers.

The findings in civil and criminal cases and reports across the United States, including in Hawaii, indicate that the Roman Catholic Church engaged in a decades-long pattern of moving clergy who sexually abused children within and between state jurisdictions; failed to disclose documentation and other evidence of child sexual abuse to criminal justice and civil authorities; and suppressed, dismissed, or otherwise mishandled complaints using internal systems controlled by the Church itself.

The effect has been to ensure that survivors and their loved ones were silenced, isolated, and rendered unable to take advantage of the range of options available for healing and seeking justice, while the public and our elected officials and executive agencies were impeded from gaining a clear, complete understanding of the extent of the abuse, obstructing efforts to respond proportionately and appropriately.

In August 2018, Pennsylvania's Attorney General published a grand jury report detailing the abuse of more than 1,000 children by approximately 300 priests, including at least one priest who was relocated from Pennsylvania to Hawaii and later admitted abusing at least 30 children in the diocese in Erie, Pennsylvania, and then in the diocese in Hawaii.

As a direct result of the Pennsylvania grand jury report, 16 Attorney Generals across the United States have initiated their own investigations, including in Illinois, which issued its initial report in December 2018 that revealed 500 priests in that state who were accused of child sexual abuse and who had not previously been disclosed by the church.

As stated by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, "The priority has always been in protecting priests and protecting church assets. Time and time again, the church says, 'Well this all took place years and years ago.' *But it's a crisis in the present for all the people who have had to live with it* (emphasis added)."

Hawaii's experience with this crisis, to date, justifies a statewide investigation. According to America: The Jesuit Review magazine, there are 66 Catholic parishes and nearly 300,000 Catholics in the State of Hawaii. A 2018 report by Jeff Anderson and Associates PA and the Law Office of Mark Gallagher, Clerical Sexual Abuse in the Diocese of Honolulu, identified at least 58 Catholic clergy members who allegedly committed child sexual abuse in Hawaii. However, without a formal, statewide investigation, the extent of abuse here, as in Pennsylvania and Illinois, may never be known.

We also respectfully note that in Hawaii there may be a substantial number of cases that are within criminal and civil statutes of limitation. Statutes of limitation can be tolled under specific circumstances, such as when offenders are not physically present in the state, and in Hawaii these cases may also be subject to our current window period statutes that allow otherwise expired civil cases to be brought in court.

Therefore, we ask that the Committee please pass S.C.R. 8 and S.R. 4, requesting that the Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General initiate a statewide investigation of sexual abuse by members of the Catholic clergy in Hawaii.

**SR-4**

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 8:36:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SR4 urging the Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General to conduct a statewide investigation of sexual abuse of minors in the state of Hawaii by clergy of the Catholic Church.

Abuse in the Catholic Church has been widespread throughout the world. In the US, BishopAccountability.org, an "online archive established by lay Catholics," reports that over 3,000 civil lawsuits have been filed against the church resulting in settlements of sex abuse cases over \$3 billion.

They estimate anywhere from tens of thousands to over 320,000 children have been sodomized since 1950, of which 18,565 survivors have broken through the silence. The abused include mostly boys but also girls, some as young as three, with the majority between 11 and 14.

Due to decades of cover-up by the Catholic church the exact number of US priests involved in sex abuse can only be estimated to be at 5.8% – a figure that more than likely includes clergy in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**SR-4**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:27:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: