

‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**

Prepared for the House Committee on Judiciary (JUD)

In Support of HB2062 HD1 With Amendments  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 325

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) writes in **support** of HB2062 HD1 with requested amendments. HB2062 HD1 which would establish within the Department of Human Services a sexually exploited children statewide coordinator and program and a commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to address the needs of sexually exploited children in the State. The bill, if passed, would also require the sexually exploited children statewide program and the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to provide annual reports to the Legislature. The bill also establishes within each county a commercial sexual exploitation of children multidisciplinary team to facilitate the sharing of information and to immediately respond to cases of sexually exploited children.

HSCSW is a member of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Steering Committee, which is led by the Judiciary and composed of members from various state, county, and federal agencies. The purpose of this steering committee is to oversee the coordinated system response to child victims of sex trafficking. HSCSW, in partnership with Arizona State University, has led the State in producing the first body of research on sex trafficking in Hawai‘i.

Sex trafficking, as defined by federal and state law, is real and happening at scale in Hawai‘i. A centralized response structure is necessary to improve the State’s sex trafficking efforts by establishing systemic information collection, for policy guidance, training, legislative reporting, and response and prevention programs.

Sex trafficking is described by Honolulu criminal justice personnel as “sexual assault on steroids” but young adult victims are not being given equal priority or attention in the state’s effort to build a coordinated system response. This month, HSCSW published results from a three-month survey of 97 sex trafficking victims across Hawai‘i. The report found that the average age of first sex trafficking experience was 21 years old, with the oldest victim first trafficked at age 55.<sup>1</sup> Seventy-seven percent of the sex trafficking victims were first sex trafficked after they turned 18 years old.<sup>2</sup>

### **Recommendation: Amend the definition of “child” to youth up to age 24**

Efforts to combat sex trafficking of minors and adults are equally critical. The difference between a child victim of sex trafficking and an adult victim of sex trafficking is 60 seconds. The HSCSW requests that HB2062 HD1 be amended to cover sexually exploited youth up to 24-years-old, rather than a narrow focus on children under 18.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has clarified that states are required to consider any child who is identified by a State as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as a victim of “child abuse and neglect” and “sexual abuse” and provides for a State option to apply the trafficking portion of the definition to a person who has not attained age 24.<sup>3</sup> States such as Minnesota extend its CSEC response and supportive services for youth sex trafficking victims up to age 24.

**The Hawai‘i State Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services already provides child sex trafficking services and responds to cases of youth up to 21-years-old.** Youth up to 21-years-old are served and counted by the State-run child sex trafficking hotline mandated by federal law. In addition, current members of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Steering Committee, in coordination with social service providers under DHS contract, provide assessment, case management, referral for treatment, service coordination between agencies, counseling and general support to child sex trafficking victims up to age 21.

A recent large-scale victimization survey undertaken by the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women and Arizona State University in April 2019 revealed that the average age of first trafficking experience was 21.4 years old among cross-sectional clients of a large social service agency serving a wide variety of populations in Hawai‘i.<sup>4</sup> Further, national data has shown that approximately 70% of 18 to 24-year-olds arrested for prostitution (selling) had a trafficker.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking Experiences Across Hawaii*, Department of Human Services, Feb. 8, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families, *Information Memorandum: Public Law 114-22, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015*, Jul. 16, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking in Hawai‘i Part III: Sex Trafficking Experiences Across Hawai‘i*, Arizona State University, (forthcoming).

<sup>5</sup> Pfeffer, R., *Project 180, a Prostitution Diversion Program: An Assessment of Version 1*, University of Houston, Oct. 2019.

The majority of the commercial sex market is comprised of non-deviant sex-buyers (i.e., those not interested in pre-pubescent or pubescent children) and who are not driven by pathology. Only focusing on commercial sexual exploitation of minors essentially narrows the focus on an age range of 14-17. Even total elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation of all 14 to 17 year-olds would not make a significant dent on trafficking or demand in Hawai‘i.

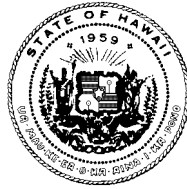
Similarly, pimps operate in a cost-benefit analysis and trafficking children is higher risk, and higher-criminal culpability. Their interest is making money, so they prey on vulnerabilities not limited to age. Although the average age of entry for minors is around 14 to 16 years-old, the majority do not exit before turning 18. The primary forces that cause sex trafficking victims to be exploited are economic and emotional vulnerabilities, drug addiction, houselessness, dating violence, and poverty –regardless of age.

Accordingly, the Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB2062 HD1 with the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96808

February 10, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Lee, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2062 HD1 - RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

Hearing: February 11, 2020, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and offers comments. DHS appreciates the amendments of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness.

**PURPOSE:** Establishes a statewide coordinator and program within DHS to address the needs of sexually exploited children. Establishes the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee. Requires the steering committees to submit reports to the legislature by July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 12/31/2059. (HD1)

In 2017, Act 16 was enacted to bring Hawaii law into compliance with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010. Act 16 (2017), amongst other things, amended section 350-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add "severe forms of trafficking in persons" and "sex trafficking" to Hawaii's definition of "child abuse and neglect."

The DHS protocol is to ensure that trafficked children and youth are identified and receive appropriate services and protections; regardless of parental abuse or neglect. DHS has a contracted provider that provides victim centered, trauma- informed comprehensive services that are individualized and responsive to the needs, values, culture and gender identity statewide for minor victims of all forms of human trafficking. The provider also promotes public

awareness of sexual exploitation of children through trainings for the community, for DHS staff, and DHS resource caregivers.

DHS is a member of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Steering Committee on Oahu. The Judiciary leads the CSEC Steering Committee and the group meets monthly. The steering committee is comprised of members from various state, county, and federal agencies. The purpose of this steering committee is to oversee the coordinated system response to child victims of sex trafficking, to identify, respond, problem-solve, and identify gaps and concerns.

DHS is also a member of the multidisciplinary team, led by the Judiciary's Children's Justice Centers located in each county. DHS participates in these team meetings to discuss coordinated services and case planning for the minor victims of sex trafficking.

The proposed measure will formalize and authorize in state law the necessary and complex work required to address the impacts of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Hawaii, and provide coordinated and supportive services to the impacted children and families.

Expanding the DHS CSEC services to include a statewide coordinator on commercial sexual exploitation of children for the proper administration and enforcement of the program will require a sufficient appropriation for additional staff and funds to operationalize the program. DHS estimates the budget to be approximately \$320,000, that included 4 staff, administrative, travel and training costs. The breakdown of the estimated budget is attached.

DHS continues its ongoing work to ensure these minor victims are identified and receive appropriate services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION  
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR CSEC PROGRAM**

<b>STAFF</b>	<b>SALARY</b>
Social Worker VI	69,732.00
Social Worker V	64,476.00
Social Worker IV	57,324.00
Administrative Assistant	41,364.00
<b>ADMIN COSTS</b>	
Equipment	7,000.00
Supplies	500.00
Public Awareness materials, etc.	10,000.00
<b>TRAVEL</b>	
Inter-island Fare	12,000.00
Car Rental	880.00
Per-diem	1,200.00
<b>TRAINING</b>	
Community/Staff Training Costs	55,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>319,476.00</b>

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I**  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawai‘i to the House Committee on Judiciary**

February 10, 2020

H.B. No. 2062, HD1: RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender supports S.B. No. 2062, HD1.

The creation of a statewide coordinator and program within the Department of Human Services is needed to address the needs of sexually exploited children. Our Juvenile Division is often tasked with providing legal counsel and representation to children who may have ended up in the Juvenile Justice System but who are also in need of coordinated and targeted help to prevent or to extricate themselves from sexual exploitation. These issues are very difficult and complicated. These children require specialized therapy and coordinated assistance. We strongly support this measure as we are hopeful that services for the juveniles we help and advocate for will improve and be better able to make a positive difference in their lives through the creation of better counseling programs and better services for these youth.

As to Section 346-C, we appreciate the inclusion of a representative from the Office of the Public Defender on the advisory body. Often sexually exploited children end up in the Juvenile Justice System and are assigned a deputy public defender who is tasked with providing legal advice and counsel. Sexually exploited juveniles may not always want to open up to judges, counselors or juvenile probation officers who they often perceive as being part of the system they may not trust. We believe, with our unique position of actively working with sexually exploited youth on a one-on-one basis and our ability to discuss these issues with them in a confidential setting, give our office a unique perspective that can be beneficial to the advisory body on how to effectively provide services to our clients.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**LATE**

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

**Date:** 02/11/2020  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 325  
**Committee:** House Judiciary

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2062, HD1 RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a statewide coordinator and program within DHS to address the needs of sexually exploited children. Establishes the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee. Requires the steering committees to submit reports to the legislature by July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 12/31/2059. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2062, HD1 as it aligns with the Department's vision and mission 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 its classrooms and offices often being the place of first alert when a child is being abused and respectfully offers comments.

The Department maintains strong and collaborative inter-agency partnership with our respective child-serving agencies and supports the continuation of membership to the state Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee.

The Department utilizes direct support from Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services unit for questions, consultations and referrals regarding sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children and thereby supports the establishment of a statewide program and coordinator within the Department of Human Services to address the needs of sexually exploited children as long as it does not affect priorities set by the Department of Human Services.

Additionally, the Department supports our law enforcement partners, county prosecutors and community based partners through the multi-disciplinary team response model. The Department remains committed to its membership to multiple government working groups



including the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee, the Inter-agency Advisory Committee and Sexual Violence Prevention Education Working Group. These groups focus on a collective inter-agency response to the various types of child abuse and the abuse continuum in Hawaii. The Department also remains committed to its partnership with community organizations Ho'ola Na Pua and Susannah Wesley Community Center/Pacific Survivor Center to collectively address sexual exploitation of children in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2062, HD1.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**LATE**

*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**

Representative Chris Lee, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

Christine E. Kuriyama

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No.2062, H.D.1, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children.

**Purpose:** Establishes a statewide coordinator and program within DHS to address the needs of sexually exploited children. Establishes the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee. Requires the steering committees to submit reports to the legislature by July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 12/31/2059. (HD1)

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports H.B.NO. 2062, H.D.1 and appreciates the Legislature's recognition that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a serious problem here in Hawai'i and throughout the United States.

The Judiciary supports this comprehensive bill for the following reasons:

1. **Public Awareness:** this bill facilitates public awareness regarding the sexual exploitation of children.
2. **Data Collection:** this bill will create a system of data collection that will be centralized and available to the legislature and stakeholders to see what areas should be focused on and the bill also will provide feedback as to the efforts to prevent exploitation.
3. **Steering Committee:** a steering committee will be created with important stakeholders so that information may be shared and all efforts be coordinated and focused.



House Bill No. 2062, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
Page 2

4. Crisis Response: prevention of exploitation is important, but equally important is the response when a child is exploited. This bill facilitates an expedited process so that exploited children and their families receive appropriate services immediately.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

DWIGHT K. NADAMOTO  
ACTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

LYNN B.K. COSTALES  
ACTING FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**LATE**

**THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawai`i**

February 11, 2020

**RE: H.B. 2062, H.D. 1; RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 2062, H.D. 1.

The Department strongly agrees that sexual exploitation of children is a dire problem in Hawaii, which could be better addressed by increased collaboration and multidisciplinary efforts from our State's various agencies. Over the years, the Department has made concerted efforts against sexual exploitation in Hawaii, and submitted legislative bills that increased penalties for all forms of sex trafficking (including when the victim is a minor) and promoting prostitution, added victims to the high priority list for the Attorney General's witness protection program, legally distinguished prostituted persons from patrons of prostitution, and increased penalties for habitual patrons of prostitution [H.B. 240, 241 & 242 (2011), later Act 145 (2011)]; increased penalties for sexual assault of a minor under 12 years old [H.B. 232 (2013), S.B. 422 (2013)]; and supported bills that created and refined the offense of solicitation of a minor [S.B. 192 (2013), later Act 247 (2013); H.B. 1926 (2014), later Act 114 (2014)]. Nevertheless, further changes are needed.

By establishing a statewide coordinator, statewide steering committee of involved agencies, and multidisciplinary team for each county, H.B. 2062, H.D. 1 could help to increase communication, efficiency and uniformity between agencies, better protect and serve victims of child sexual exploitation, improve public safety, and systematically coordinate all of these things at once.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 2062 H.D, 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



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MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY  
CLYDE K. HO  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE PJ-FG

February 11, 2020

**LATE**

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2062, H.D. 1, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

I am Acting Major Phillip Johnson of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2062, H.D. 1, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children.

This bill, in part, seeks to establish a sexually exploited children statewide program within the Department of Human Services, a steering committee, and a commercial sexual exploitation of children multidisciplinary team within each county to facilitate the sharing of information and to immediately respond to cases of sexually exploited children. The HPD supports these efforts and believes that sharing information and coordinating efforts among service providers and law enforcement is paramount in the rescue of a most vulnerable population, our keiki.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 2062, H.D. 1, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Johnson".

Phillip Johnson, Acting Major  
Narcotics/Vice Division



## **Residential Youth Services & Empowerment**

February 10, 2020

TO: House Committee on Judiciary (JUD)

FROM: Carla Houser, Executive Director  
Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

SUBJECT: HB 2062 HD1

Hearing: February 11, 2020 at 2pm  
State Capitol, Room 325

**POSITION: RYSE strongly supports this measure with amendments.**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Honorable Members,

Our current model of allowing unaccompanied minors and homeless youth to linger on the streets and not providing the necessary resources to address the trauma they've faced is not working. The recently released Child & Family Service report *Sex Trafficking Experiences Across Hawaii* shows that 23% of the sex trafficking victims were first sex trafficked before they turned 18 years old. Of the participants that were first sex trafficked as children: 39% had experienced homelessness, 44% reported addiction to drugs and 70% reported having a mental health diagnosis. 24.7% of the victims said they were forced to exchange sex for a place to stay.

By the time these youth turn 18 and can enter a shelter, catering to adolescent specific needs, it's often too late. The trauma of living on the streets has compounded. Their substance use, mental health and sexual exploitation has been exacerbated because of a need to survive.

HB2062 HD1 would establish within the Department of Human Services a sexually exploited children statewide coordinator and program and a commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to address the needs of sexually exploited children in the State. The bill also establishes within each county a commercial sexual exploitation of children multidisciplinary team to facilitate the sharing of information and to immediately respond to cases of sexually exploited children.

**Recommendation: Amend the definition of “child” to youth up to age 24**

Efforts to combat sex trafficking of minors and adults are equally critical. Helping children overcome the trauma of being sexually exploited should not end at the magical age of 18. Many of these youth will require years of supportive services and housing stability throughout their adolescents. In 2019, we shelter 6 females who had aged out of a minor serving shelter or other supportive CSEC services. We ask that HB2062 HD1 be amended to cover sexually exploited youth up to 24-years-old, rather than just focusing on children under 18.

Through a collaboration of both state agencies and private organizations and a coordinated system of care, this measure will provide temporary stable housing as well as supportive connections to caring adults and services that can guide at risk youth from the streets towards a productive life and brighter future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla D. Houser".

Carla Houser  
Executive Director, RYSE



91-1841 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
Phone 808.681.3500  
Fax 808.681.5280  
Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org  
www.childandfamilyservice.org



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February 10, 2020

Representative Chris Lee, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Judiciary

**Testimony on behalf of Child & Family Service to Support HB2062 HD1**

Child & Family Service (CFS) strongly supports HB2062 HD1 to appropriate moneys that will support 1) establishing a statewide coordinator and program to address the needs of Hawaii's sexually exploited children; 2) establishing a statewide commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee; and 3) establishing a multidisciplinary team in each county to immediately response to cases of sexually exploited children.

In partnership with Arizona State University and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Child & Family Service conducted research on service-seeking individuals in CFS Programs statewide. Our data confirmed unfortunate findings – that Hawaii's children are vulnerable to traffickers. Our data demonstrated that of our participants, 1 in 4 reported they were children when they were first sex trafficked. Although our study certainly does not speak for all youth within the State of Hawaii, we believe it does speak to the broader need to increase our response collectively to the matter of trafficking here in Hawaii.

We at CFS strongly believe that it is an ethical imperative that there be a coordinated response to preventing trafficking among our children and to helping current trafficked victims receive the support and resources needed to safely exit the trafficking world.

Sincerely,

Karen Tan, LCSW  
President and CEO

ACCREDITATIONS  
Council on Accreditation  
Better Business Bureau

AFFILIATIONS  
Alliance for Strong Families  
and Communities  
Kauai United Way  
Maui United Way  
Hawaii Island United Way



Aloha United Way

**“We’re All About FAMILY”**

Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

**LATE**

**HB-2062-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:09:15 PM  
Testimony for JUD on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Munoz	Ho'ola Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Ho'ola Na Pua writes in support of HB2062, which would establish within the Department of Human Services a statewide coordinator to oversee the efforts dedicated to combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Hawaii. The bill requires the statewide steering committee to provide annual reports to the legislature and county-specific multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) to meet and address this social justice issue collaboratively. Ho'ola Na Pua fully supports the information sharing of these cases as we know that it takes a community rallying together around these kids to provide them with the safety net necessary for their healing to begin. We appreciate the opportunity for service providers, law enforcement, and judiciary to come together in a unified response that will maximize resources and thank the legislature for working to formalize the work being done to support children who have been exploited.

Ho'ola Na Pua also supports the improvements to the Department of Human Service's centralized response structure that would establish systemic information collection that is shared for policy guidance, training, and statewide response and prevention programs. Ho'ola Na Pua supports the extension of service coordination through the establishment of a dedicated CSEC coordinator to guide the State's efforts, report on progress, and support and advocate for our youth.

Mahalo,

Jessica Munoz

President, Ho'ola Na Pua



**LATE**

## **HB 2062, HD1, RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

FEBRUARY 11, 2020 · HOUSE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. CHRIS LEE

**POSITION:** Support, with amendments.

**RATIONALE:** IMUAlliance supports and suggests amendments for HB 2062, HD1, relating to the sexual exploitation of children, which establishes a statewide coordinator and program within DHS to address the needs of sexually exploited children, establishes the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee, requires the steering committees to submit reports to the legislature by July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022.

IMUAlliance is one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention (victim rescue) services to 150 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims and individuals at risk of sexual exploitation. 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 trauma bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name. Yet, sadly, many of the victims with whom we work are misidentified as so-called "voluntary prostitutes" and are subsequently arrested and incarcerated, with no financial resources from which to pay for their release.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. The average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation in Hawai'i may be as low as 14-years-old, with 60 percent of trafficked children being under the age of 16. Based on regular outreach and monitoring, we estimate that approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments operate in Hawai'i. In a recent report conducted by the State Commission on the Status of Women, researchers from Arizona State University found that 1 in every 11 adult males living in our state buys sex online. When visitors are also counted, that number worsens to 1 in every 7 men walking the streets of our island home and a daily online sex buyer market of 18,614 for O'ahu and a total sex buyer population for the island of 74,362, including both tourists and residents.

ASU's findings are grim, but not surprising to local organizations that provide services to survivors of sex trafficking. IMUAlliance, for example, has trained volunteers to perform outreach to victims in high-risk locations, like strip clubs, massage parlors, and hostess bars. 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 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 one underage 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."

Accordingly, we support measures to advance our state's ability to crack down on sexual slavery, including this proposal's enhancement of our state's and counties' data collection and information sharing practices. Hawai'i does not currently have a statewide coordinated continuum of care for victims of sex trafficking. In fact, the crime of "sex trafficking" only came into being under Hawai'i law in 2016. State agencies and service providers are currently striving to establish a network of victim services that is responsive to each victim's unique and individual needs. Yet, in our experience as a victim service provider, we have found that state agencies are reluctant to share information with one another about reported cases, typically because of concerns about protecting victim confidentiality, and often fail to appropriately identify victims of sexual exploitation as such, leaving them without access to trauma-informed care and victim services.

In practically every case on which we work, confidentiality is crucial to the effective provision of victim services. If a student at a public school is identified as a victim, information relating to that student is kept in the strictest confidence by Department of Education personnel, law enforcement, and service providers. If a trafficking victim is located at a local massage parlor, we would, again, maintain the strictest standards of confidentiality with regard to the victim's identity, inasmuch as possible, even after the victim's case has been completed. Such concerns should not be an excuse to inhibit the interagency collaboration necessary to assist victims, however, nor should they be a barrier to working with private organizations to rescue and restore survivors of our state's sadly prolific sex trade.

Frankly, as the state's only private provider of direct intervention and outreach services (our advocacy team *literally* meets victims in the places at which they're being trafficked and works to provide a pathway to freedom), we would be willing and able to provide all of the data enumerated in this bill to the Department of Human Services if called upon, as well as a great deal of additional information, including our regularly updated tally of high-risk sex trafficking establishments and case data. We note that this proposal does not fully embrace the experiences of private, nonprofit service providers, like ourselves, or the victims we serve, though, since private providers are not included on the proposed commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee, despite the critical role that service providers perform each day in uplifting survivors of sexual exploitation. Therefore, we would encourage the committees to amend this measure to ensure that multiple service provider perspectives are heard **by adding “(11) a representative from a nonprofit service provider that delivers direct intervention services to victims of sex trafficking” and “(12) a representative from a nonprofit service provider that specializes in long-term residential treatment services for victims of sex trafficking”** to the list of steering committee members contained on pages 6-7 of this bill.

Finally, we hope that this measure will catalyze much-needed discussions about reforming internal data collection practices within departments that knowingly or unknowingly serve trafficked children. HDOE, for example, has no comprehensive protocol for handling sexually exploited children identified within the public school system. To close this gap, we are currently training administrators, teachers, counselors, and school-based behavioral health specialists in numerous complex areas in how to create school-level action plans for effectively responding to

victims of exploitation. At the same time, we provide a prevention education program in schools to equip students to identify the signs of exploitation and become their own first-responders. The *fewest* number of potential victims about which we have received reports from any school with which we've worked is 12. Two years ago, we received over *three dozen* reports of potential victimization after a *single presentation*. Again, to better systematize our state's service delivery system for trafficking victims, we must require state agencies to better identify and track victims within the populations for which they're responsible, and better coordinate with one another to ensure that survivors receive the services they need to heal.

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF  
HARM REDUCTION HAWAII

c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205

Honolulu, HI 96822



February 11, 2020

RE: HB2602 to be heard Tuesday February 11, in Room 325 at 2:00 PM

To the members of the House Committee on Judiciary

**OPPOSE**

Dear Representatives:

Harm Reduction Hawaii is a support organization promoting harm reduction approaches in social services. Many agencies, both government and private, are engaged in harm reduction and active in our coalition. We are surprised to see a bill introduced and included in the Women's Caucus Package that no one has asked us about. This is particularly troubling after the 2019 session wherein similar issues were argued about between many of us and the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

The legislation suffers from 1. Lack of community involvement 2. Lack of understanding of the issues involved 3. No coherent plan to gather and evaluate information in an appropriate manner 4. Duplication with ongoing efforts 5. Repeating bad structure that has failed in the past, and 6. Concentrating power at DHS.

Problem #1. During the last session a number of agencies and individuals had to spend time fighting two bad bills aimed at creating a database and training system to be run by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. Subsequent to that several people who had been on differing sides had a meeting or two over the summer led by UH Professor Meda Chesney-Lind. A possible state coordinator within DHS was suggested at that time, but no further meetings were held due to scheduling problems. None of these people seem to have been aware that a bill was going to be drafted and included in the Women's Caucus package. I was led to understand that they wanted a broad group of people to come together and work things out. This didn't happen here.

The community of agencies that I work with in harm reduction includes the most experienced and expert people in the state in the very areas that these bills purport to address. Not only have none of these people been asked for their ideas in proposing legislation, none of them are included on the steering committee. Nor are agencies working specifically with trafficking victims such as Ho'ola Na Pua and Susannah Wesley. Nor are academic leaders such as Professor Chesney-Lind and others.

Problem #2. Lack of understanding of the issues involved. It seems to me that whomever drafted this bill has a limited understanding of the issues involving minors in the sex trades. Political language rather than neutral language is used. Conclusions are made. Detailed responses of creating multi-disciplinary task forces, etc. are put into statute, before the committee has even begun their work.

We need neutrally collected data, done by competent academic researchers, to help everyone understand the many complexities of these issues. The public is focused on a dominant narrative of young girls held in a dark room somewhere under the control of a vicious trafficker. Although, such things do happen, they don't happen in a vacuum. What's more such a narrative has little to do with the majority of minors in the sex trades here. The committees to be created, need to understand the various issues involving boys, girls, and transgender girls. They should not be lumping people of different stages of development, as

this bill does by describing everyone under age 18 as a “child”. There is no excuse to lump a seventeen year old adolescent into the same category as a ten year old child. Both may need services, but not the same ones. There are young people working with pimps, and those who are independent. The situations are not the same. There are various problems with existing state efforts that cause many minors to prefer continuing in sex work to accessing assistance.

Problem #3. Lack of a plan to gather information. You shouldn’t rely on data collected that is not done in accordance with proper social science methodology. You shouldn’t draw conclusions that are not supported by data. Politics, anti-prostitution biases, or over focus on a small and not representative subgroup of a population to be studied will leave you without essential knowledge. Giving funds to our own university to ensure we have good data is the best step I can think of.

Problem #4. Duplication with ongoing efforts. DHS is already involved with a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) steering committee that meets monthly. Apparently the legislature is not happy with their lack of ideas or they wouldn’t be proposing creating a new steering committee in these bills to do the same basic thing. Ironically the people who have been meeting on these existing steering committees will be the ones on the new steering committees.

Problem #5. Failed prior attempts. Remember the Hawaii Anti-Trafficking Task Force that operated for years under the auspices of the Attorney General’s office? Why after all of those meetings and those of the ongoing CSEC committees are there no ideas on how to solve these problems? It is because the State of Hawaii continues to make the same errors in its approach. A committee lacking the most expert people in the state, and with no proper plan to educate itself on the issues is doomed to failure. The problems of minors in the sex trades are not new. We could have come together and addressed them at any time during the twenty five years I have been working on these issues.

Problem #6. Issues with the DHS. The DHS is an organ of the government answerable to its political and funding sources. Aside from potential interference from the executive branch and the appointment of an inappropriate person to the role of statewide coordinator, there is the problem of Federal money. Federal money comes with political strings attached. Their record on sex trafficking issues is very problematic, particularly with the current administration. Hawaii has already created statutory reporting mandates that undermine the ability of social service providers to assist youth on the grounds that failure to do so would stop the flow of Federal dollars to DHS.

Having a statewide coordinator who is acceptable to the three main approaches to this issue (law enforcement, rescue, and harm reduction) is important here. Also important is the need to have tenured academics produce data independent of any political agenda.

Sincerely:



Tracy Ryan

Proposed amended version is below. Deleted language is lined through, new language is underlined.



**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that ~~children~~ minors in the State are vulnerable to sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Many young people may be involved in the illicit commercial sex trades for various reasons including control by an adult or as runaways engaged in survival sex. Foster children and runaways with histories of abuse and neglect are at particularly high risk. LGBTQ+ youth, immigrants, undocumented workers, and youth suffering from mental illnesses and substance abuse issues are also highly vulnerable. Victims ~~are often~~ may be lured into sex trafficking through emotional manipulation and control, force, fraud, or threats. ~~Children~~ Minors may not have the ability or resources to escape and start a new life. The legislature recognizes that, in the last decade, the commercial sexual exploitation of children has garnered greater attention in Hawaii and throughout the United States. The department of human services has received an increasing number of calls on its hotline for witnesses or victims of child sex trafficking. However, because child sex trafficking is covert, it is difficult to accurately measure the scope of the problem ~~and exploited youth may not identify themselves as victims.~~

The legislature finds that, in order to adequately address these issues ~~serve children who have been sexually exploited, a state-wide coordinator and steering committee is~~ a comprehensive needs assessment should be undertaken. A Statewide coordinator and steering committee will implement this effort and utilize data to create ~~needed to develop and utilize~~ comprehensive interagency case management strategies, protocols, and a multi-disciplinary system response to cases. ~~that is both victim-centered and offender-focused.~~

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- (1) Establish a statewide coordinator and program within the Department of Human Services to address the needs of minors in who in the sex trades, some of whom may be sexually exploited children;
- (2) Establish a statewide ~~commercial sexual exploitation of children~~ steering committee to assist in the oversight of the needs assessment, to analyze data, and to make recommendations of policy;
- ~~(3) Establish a multidisciplinary team in each county to immediately respond to cases of sexually exploited children; and~~
- ~~(4)~~ (2) Appropriate moneys for this purpose.

SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"PART . MINORS IN THE SEX TRADES NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**~~SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN STATEWIDE COORDINATOR AND PROGRAM~~**

**§346-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

"~~Child~~" Minor means a person under eighteen years of age.

"Sex Trades" are areas in which commercial acts of a sexual nature are performed by one actor for a fee, for the pleasure of another, generally the person paying the fee.

"Commercial sexual exploitation of children" means any sexual activity involving a ~~child~~ minor under the age of 16 for the exchange or promise of anything of value by any person, or of any

minor involving emotional manipulation and control, force, fraud, or threats.

**§346-B Sstatewide coordinator and program.** (a) The director shall appoint a statewide coordinator. In order to ensure the appointee enjoys wide support from harm reductionists, anti-trafficking groups, and law enforcement the director should solicit the advice and consent for this appointment from the following representative groups: The University of Hawaii Department of Women's Studies, the Honolulu Police Department, the Youth Outreach Project, Ho'ola Na Pua, Susannah Wesley, the Hawaii Attorney General, and the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center. The statewide coordinator shall be responsible ~~on commercial sexual exploitation of children~~ for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter without regard to chapter 76.

(b) The statewide coordinator shall work with the University of Hawaii Women's Studies Department on developing a needs assessment. This shall be aimed at gaining a better understanding of the multifaceted issues facing minors in the sex trades. Differentiation into sub-categories based on age, gender, and the situation of being co-coerced or not should be a focus. Interviews with minors currently involved in the sex trades or persons formerly involved during their period of minority should represent a key component. Other data collected from agencies who work with youth in Hawaii and elsewhere, as well as academic research may provide a supplement to this effort.

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) The department shall develop and implement a program to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and assist child victims of sexual exploitation. The program shall:~~

~~(c1) Support the operations of the ~~commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee.~~~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Promote public awareness of the sexual exploitation of children, available services for victims, and state and national hotlines for victims and witnesses;~~

~~(3) Produce and maintain informational materials, including a website, on the prevention of child sexual exploitation and on the public resources available to victims and witnesses;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (4) Develop and provide comprehensive training on how to prevent, identify, and address the sexual exploitation of children;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (5) Apply for and monitor federal funding for anti-trafficking efforts; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (6) Submit a report on the commercial sexual exploitation of children for the prior fiscal year to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, including:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (A) The number of annual reports to state hotline numbers alleging the sexual trafficking of a minor;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (B) The total number of children suspected to be victims of sex trafficking, including demographic~~

~~information and information on whether each child was previously served by the department;~~

~~(C) The total number of children confirmed to be victims of sex trafficking, including demographic information and information on whether each child was previously served by the department;~~

~~(D) By state-contracted providers:~~

~~(i) The types and aggregate costs of services provided to children who are suspected or confirmed victims of sex trafficking and the number of children receiving each type of service;~~

~~(ii) The total number of new children and families served through these providers; and~~

~~(iii) The total number of children and families served through these providers; and~~

~~(E) Delineated by county, the number of prosecutions and convictions in the State for crimes related to commercial sexual exploitation of children, including but not limited to promoting child abuse under part VI of chapter 707, sex trafficking under section 712-1202, solicitation of a minor for prostitution under section 712-1209.1, promoting pornography for minors under section 712-1215, promoting minor-produced sexual images in the first~~

~~or second degree under sections 712-1215.5 and 712-1215.6, and electronic enticement of a child in the first or second degree under sections 707-756 and 707-757.~~

**~~§346-C MINORS IN THE SEX TRADES Commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee; established.~~ (a)**

There is administratively attached to the Department the minors in the sex trades commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee, which shall be an advisory body exempt from section 26-34.

The committee shall comprise the following members or their designees:

- (1) The director of human services;
- (2) The director of health;
- (3) The superintendent of education;
- (4) The attorney general;
- (5) The senior family court judge for the first circuit;
- (6) The senior family court judge for the second circuit;
- (7) The senior family court judge for the third circuit;
- (8) The senior family court judge for the fifth circuit;
- (9) The prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu;
- (10) The prosecuting attorney for the county of Maui;
- (11) The prosecuting attorney for the county of Hawaii;
- (12) The prosecuting attorney for the county of Kauai;

- (13) The chief of the Honolulu police department;
- (14) The chief of the Maui police department;
- (15) The chief of the Hawaii police department;
- (16) The chief of the Kauai police department;
- (17) A representative of the children's justice centers; and
- (18) A representative of the Hawaii state commission on the status of women.
- (19) The office of the Public Defender
- (20) A representative from the University of Hawaii system well versed in social science research methodology.
- (21) In addition representative from non-government agencies, including those who work in harm reduction, those who offer services to sex trafficking victims both long term and short, those who offer services to marginalized youth, those who work with transgender people, and those who represent sex workers should be approached to join the steering committee. Agencies such as Hale Kipa, Ho'ola Na Pua, Susannah Wesley, the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center, Harm Reduction Hawaii, Kulia Na Mamo, the Youth Outreach Project, Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, and the Hawaii Chapter of the Sex Workers' Outreach Project, and others identified by the statewide coordinator, should be asked to participate.

(b) The statewide coordinator shall serve as chair of the steering committee and may add any additional members as necessary.

(c) The steering committee may discuss specific cases, individuals, and other confidential information to the extent permitted by law. The steering committee shall be exempt from part I of chapter 92.

(d) The steering committee shall meet at least quarterly shall prepare and ~~shall~~ submit to the legislature by July 1, 2021, a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to address ~~the sexual exploitation of children,~~ minors in the sex trades including any proposed legislation. By July 1, 2022 the program ~~steering committee~~ shall submit a final report to the legislature to include but not be limited to:

- (1) Plans for local and state agencies to identify and respond to minor ~~child~~-victims of sex trafficking;
- (2) Best practices used in other states or foreign countries to identify and serve sexually exploited children;
- (3) A comprehensive evaluation of existing programs and services offered in the State for minors in the sex trades including sexually exploited ones ~~children~~;
- (4) Strategies for public outreach and education on the various problems of minors in the sex trades including sexual exploitation of them ~~children~~;



- (5) An assessment of whether minors in the sex trades ~~sexually exploited children~~ should be able to consent to treatment, services, placement, and cooperation with law enforcement without parental consent;
- (6) A review of criminal statutes under chapter 712 regarding prostitution and sex trafficking;
- (7) Plans for a training program for educators, community members, law enforcement members, and mandatory reporters of child abuse, including an outline of the content of the training and an assessment of whether mandatory training is required and in what intervals; and
- (8) Statewide assessment tools for first responders, medical professionals, and service providers for use in identifying child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

~~§346-D Commercial sexual exploitation of children~~

~~multidisciplinary team; established.~~ (a) ~~There is established in every county a commercial sexual exploitation of children multidisciplinary team to immediately respond to cases of the sex trafficking of children. Members of the multidisciplinary team shall be trained in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and child neglect and shall be qualified to provide a broad range of services related to child abuse and neglect~~

~~(including physical and sexual abuse and domestic violence),  
sexually exploited children, and children at risk of exploitation.~~

~~(b) Each multidisciplinary team shall:~~

~~(1) Provide a crisis response and support to sexually  
exploited children;~~

~~(2) Assist family members who are supportive of the child  
and whose interests are consistent with the best  
interests of the child; and~~

~~(3) Meet law enforcement and prosecutorial needs.~~

~~Each multidisciplinary team shall facilitate the mutual  
sharing of information among the team and among relevant agencies  
and service providers, including information on the victims'  
physical or mental health, or other information relating to the  
best interests of the child, unless otherwise prohibited by state  
or federal law.~~

~~(c) The following documents and materials shall not be  
disclosed, except as otherwise provided in subsection (d):~~

~~(1) Documents and materials that pertain to specifically  
identified cases or clients, including files, reports,  
notes, photographs, records, electronic and other  
communications, working papers, or recordings; and~~

~~(2) Documents and materials that comprise client interview  
guidelines and other interview-related materials, as  
well as all materials used in training forensic  
interviewers.~~

~~———— (d) Confidential documents and materials shall only be disclosed as follows:~~

~~———— (1) To persons on the multidisciplinary team or by agencies or providers who are directly involved in the treatment of the child or in the investigation, case management, or legal processing of cases under this chapter, including but not limited to members of law enforcement, child welfare agencies, prosecuting attorneys, and medical and mental health professionals; or~~

~~———— (2) Pursuant to any state or federal law that authorizes the disclosure of confidential information.~~

~~———— (e) The multidisciplinary team shall not be subject to part I of chapter 92."~~

SECTION 3. The director of human services shall add four two full-time equivalent (4 2.0 FTE) positions as follows:

(1) 1.0 FTE statewide coordinator;

(2) 1.0 FTE research assistant working with the University of Hawaii Women's Studies Program on a needs assessment.

~~social worker V assistant program administrator;~~

~~(3) 1.0 FTE social worker IV (child welfare intake); and~~

~~———— (4) 1.0 FTE administrative assistant.~~

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the ~~sexually exploited children~~ statewide coordinator and program.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**LATE**

**TO: Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

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

**DATE/LOCATION: February 11, 2020; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB HB 2062 HD 1 WITH COMMENTS– RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

**We support HB 2062 HD 1 which establishes a statewide coordinator and program within DHS to address the needs of sexually exploited children and establishes the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee.**

We support this bill which would provide the structure and funding for the coordination of efforts across the state. The crimes of sex trafficking and commercial exploitation of children has been increasing over the past decade. It will take a dedicated and concerted effort to adequately address this issue and keep our keiki safe. We would also like to recommend that direct service providers be included on the steering committee in addition to on the multidisciplinary teams for each county. There are many organizations working on the front lines each day who will lend a great deal of expertise to the work of the committee and teams. As a provider on Oahu working with Susannah Wesley Community Center and Hale Kipa on the Trafficking Victims Awareness Program (TVAP), we wholeheartedly understand the critical need to jointly address the issue of trafficking and sexual exploitation of our children in Hawaii. The creation of a state-wide steering committee and county multidisciplinary teams will create a framework for collaboration and information sharing that will encourage a coordinated systems approach to addressing the problem.

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 testify in **support of HB 2062 HD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**HB-2062-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:16:10 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2062-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:43:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen M Radius	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the 2/11/2020 hearing on HB2062HD1 but want to make sure that my voice is added in strong support of this bill, except I believe the effective date should be July 1, 2020 as originally envisioned.. I am a retired Family Court Judge and am testifying as a concerned citizen.

I am currently the volunteer co-chair of the CSEC Steering Committee for the Island of Oahu formed by a number of state agencies who provide services to Hawaii's children as well as law enforcement and the Judiciary and the Attorney Generals office. We also have been joined by a number of federal representatives concerned about the issue of sex trafficking and other sex abuse issues occurring daily on Oahu. All people who serve do so in addition to their already overcommitted workloads. We have been meeting for a little over two years and the involved state and federal governmental agencies have begun to work on these issues on Oahu with hopes that we could improve our approach and find "what works" here and then include neighbor island representatives. We have no budgeted funds for this group or for our meetings.

Some progress has been made including the institution of a hotline for mandated reporters and others to report suspected sex trafficking of minors to DHS. In the past Family Court on Oahu would see 4 -7 cases a year against children under 18 charged with prostitution on the juvenile law violations calendar. We knew that this was just the tip of the iceberg but obtaining data and having targeted trauma informed services for the children remained illusive. Pursuant to federal law, DHS was required, as were all states, to establish a hotline for reports of suspected sex trafficking of minors. From its establishment in June, 2017 to December 31, 2019 that hotline has received reports of 193 suspected cases of children--both boys and girls--from ages as young as 6 through 17 on all islands. We believe that these numbers are still low compared to the actual occurrence but they reflect how inadequate our original understandings were.

The state agencies involved in the Oahu CSEC Steering Committee have established relationships that are necessary to work through the maze that is this work. Agencies have pieced together some funding through federal grants, and realignment of some current funding to provide some limited services. Private non profits have done fundraising and begun to provide some services. Girls Court on Oahu has taken on cases of children who have been sex trafficked. However, we do not have a full continuum of care here on Oahu or on the neighbor islands. We have been able to hear from mainland states and counties about their approaches to both providing adequate social and mental health services as well as housing and safety for the children who have been caught up in this destructive web. We have looked at different law enforcement models, emphasis and training.

The children and their families who have been effected face serious challenges--sometimes of long time abuse, poverty, drug use, disengagement from school, a feeling of hopelessness and that opportunities available to other kids just aren't for them. Yet others come from in tact families and more prosperous neighborhoods. These are not the kids who just need a six week quick intervention and a workbook activity to "fix" them. Yet the children who do survive and become reintegrated with their family (if appropriate) and community and school are children who can and do succeed. The kids of Hawaii are too good to lose to CSEC.

HB 2062 HD1 provides necessary funding to provide a dedicated statewide coordinator in the Department of Human Services who could devote their full energy and time to work with the stakeholder agencies and non profits to support a statewide steering - committee, to develop a coprehensive plan to determine what kinds of service really work, how many we really need and to report to the legislature yearly.

It also establishes multidisciplinary teams on each island so that interagency cooperation and effective handling of cases can be crafted to fit the local situation on each island.

I know this issue has been contentious at times over the years, but in order to do your job and exercise wise decision making we owe you as law makers good information about the scope of thie problem, the right fit services needed, the actual cost of providing these services, training plans and follow through so agencies and the public understand the issue and can work effectively together for the good of our children.



teaea

**LATE**

## **Testimony of Rosanna Prieto to the House Committee on Judiciary**

February 10th, 2020

H.B. No. 2062: RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee:

I support the proposed bill to establish statewide coordination efforts addressing sex trafficking of minors. But I hope I misunderstand Section 6 that states the act should take effect almost 40 years from now. This needs to be amended immediately. As a case manager and youth counselor, I've worked with youth on a daily basis who've been victims of sex trafficking.

I facilitated substance abuse counseling with a 13 year old struggling with meth addiction. His guardians made him use meth as a young child to record him in forced sex acts with other kids sold in pornography online. Another boy was 16 when I worked with him, but had been paid by older men to perform sex acts in exchange for meth while he was homeless, as early as 12 years old. I worked with a girl receiving expensive private school education and came from a well-off family that ran their own successful business. She dated an older boyfriend who gave her drugs and recorded her at parties. She claimed she didn't even remember recruiting other girls to engage in commercial sex trafficking and use drugs despite video evidence.

These were local kids and families. While there is no one perfect solution, this is a problem that cannot wait. One child rape is one too many. Please help save and protect our communities in the way that only you can. Mahalo

