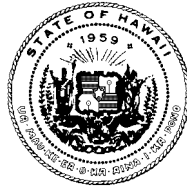


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 19, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2062 HD2 - RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

Hearing: February 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, 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 Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Judiciary.

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. (HD2)

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 sex 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.

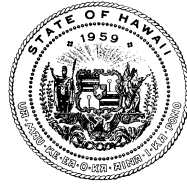
DHS is also a member of the multidisciplinary team, led by the Judiciary's Children's Justice Centers located in each county. DHS participates in these team meetings to discuss coordinated services and case planning for the minor victims of sex trafficking.

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 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on HB2062 HD1
RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 20, 2020

Room Number: Room 308

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of
2 this measure and offers the following **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS.**

3 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure falls within the scope of the
4 Department's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a
5 comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public,
6 private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying
7 out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and
8 person centered. The BHA's, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) provides
9 the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

10 The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this bill and offers comments.

11 The state can be proud of the tremendous effort put forth by multiple agencies and stakeholders
12 in the initial development of a systemic response to commercially sexually exploited children.
13 This effort requires the interfacing of policy makers, law enforcement, state agencies, treatment
14 providers, private entities and the public at large to develop this comprehensive system response.
15 By establishing a dedicated statewide coordinator and developing a formalized infrastructure,
16 these efforts can be furthered by increasing awareness, gathering reliable data, providing
17 prevention, screening and identification services, increasing prosecution, developing appropriate
18 treatments, monitoring progress, training relevant partners and educating the public.

1 **Offered Amendments:** The Department of Health recommends that the Statewide Coordinator
2 should serve as a member of the Hawaii Statewide Interagency Youth Network of Care (HI-
3 SYNC) group. The HI-SYNC is similar in composition to the steering committee suggested in
4 this bill, and is comprised of multiple child serving agencies as well as the regional area working
5 groups called Hawaii Local Youth Network of Care (HI-LYNC).

6 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health defers to the Department of Human Services on
7 fiscal matters pertaining to this bill.

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



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

by

Christine E. Kuriyama
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No.2062, H.D.2, 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. (HD2)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports H.B.NO. 2062, H.D.2 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.



House Bill No. 2062, H.D.2, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
Page 2

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.
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.



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

Date: 02/20/2020
Time: 01:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2062, HD2 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. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2062, HD2 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.

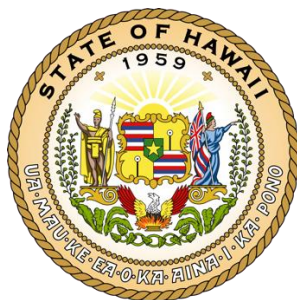
The Department utilizes direct support from Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services unit for questions, consultations and referrals regarding sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children and thereby supports the establishment of a statewide program and coordinator within 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, HD2

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.



‘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 Finance

In Support of HB2062 HD1 With Amendments
Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) **supports** 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 55.¹ Seventy-seven percent of the sex trafficking victims were first sex trafficked after they turned 18 years old.²

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 24.³ 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.⁴ Further, national data has shown that approximately 70% of 18 to 24-year-olds arrested for prostitution (selling) had a trafficker.⁵

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

² *Id.*

³ 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.

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

⁵ 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.

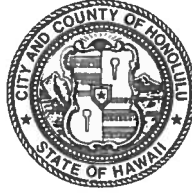
Accordingly, the Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB2062 HD2 with the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
CLYDE K. HO
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE PJ-FG

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2062, H.D. 2, 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. 2, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children.

This bill, in part, seeks to establish a sexually exploited children statewide coordinator and program within the Department of Human Services, as well as 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. 2, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip Johnson".

Phillip Johnson, Acting Major
Narcotics/Vice Division



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 1:00 pm
House Conference Room 308

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2062 HD2

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports House Bill 2062 HD2, which establishes 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.

Over the past decade, there has been an increasing international awareness of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Children in the state of Hawaii are vulnerable to sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, especially foster children and runaways with histories of abuse. A statewide program to coordinate services and promote public awareness of sexual exploitation of children, available services for children, and state and national hotlines for victims and witnesses would significantly protect children in the state of Hawaii from sexual exploitation.

HB2062 HD2 will provide funding and structure for coordinating services and increasing public awareness about the sexual exploitation of children in the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB2062 HD2.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, PhD, President
Chair, Legislative Action Committee
Hawai'i Psychological Association



HB 2062, HD2, RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

FEBRUARY 20, 2020 · HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports HB 2062, HD2, 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, and 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. At least 23 percent of trafficking victims in Hawai'i report being first exploited before turning 18, according to a recent report, with the average age of trafficked keiki's initial exposure to exploitation being 11. 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 embraces the experiences of nonprofit service providers, like ourselves, and the victims we serve by including four representatives of nonprofit agencies that provide direct services to sexually exploited children to participate on the steering committee, which we believe is imperative given the critical role that service providers perform each day in uplifting survivors of sexual exploitation.**

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.

HB-2062-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:48:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	aaup of hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2062-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:32:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Ishihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 2nd, 2020; 1:00PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In support for HB 2062

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and esteemed members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on a bill of vital importance to the keiki of our local community. As you know, the children of Hawaii are often preyed upon by those who would wish to make a profit off of them. There is a great need and a difficulty involved in protecting and saving these children and not many resources available for rehabilitating and supporting those who have been saved from this terrible situation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Emma Ishihara.

HB-2062-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:08:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an educator, I know that we can use all the assistance for our children that we can in all areas. Sexual exploitation of children is something that must be stopped on our islands. It is the hope that a person dedicated to this position will be able to devote the time and energy to this endeavor.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and member of the Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2062. As a local attorney, a military spouse, a mother of two children and a member of several non-profit and education boards in the community, the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the solutions addressed within this bill are important to me.

I have personally worked on CSEC cases as an attorney in Texas, Arizona, Alabama, and here in Hawaii when I was employed at the Attorney General's Office in the ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) unit. It was in that very space that we began exploring the idea of a statewide CSEC coordinator. In researching the issue for the A.G.'s Office, I discovered that the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCLS) identified 39 states already successfully employing statewide coordination. Twenty-six (26) states and Guam have legislatively created statewide coordinators. Thirteen (13) states and the District of Columbia have executively created statewide coordinators within departmental agencies. Hawaii is not included in either count.

In follow-up to this research, I reached out to the statewide coordinators in all states with a similar population (within 500,000 people) of Hawaii. This included New Mexico, Montana, Rhode Island, Delaware and Virginia. Through the A.G.'s Office, I also coordinated to have the Texas statewide coordinator come to Hawaii to discuss this topic amongst stakeholders in this space, including representatives from all government offices on the CSEC Steering Committee. The message and the consensus thereafter was clear – Hawaii would benefit significantly from a centralized statewide coordination effort – the very effort articulated in HB 2062.

HB 2062 creates this much-needed statewide coordination with both the quantitative ability to gather and analyze data, as well as the qualitative ability to build collaboration amongst all of the stakeholders in this arena. It provides for:

- True statewide coordination and information sharing amongst government, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates and service providers;
- Short- and long-term objectives and goals acted upon, measured and reported back to the legislature;
- Enhanced investigation and streamlined prosecution;
- Collaboration via a true statewide strategy addressing CSEC and sex trafficking challenges on all of our islands;
- Uniform training standards, reporting, data collection and case analysis with accountability attached; and
- Continued support for our children being exploited by those buying, those selling and those complicit in this crime.

HB 2062 affords Hawaii the same statewide CSEC coordination that has been proven effective in 39 other jurisdictions and, as such, should be enacted into law here in Hawaii. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Melissa Rueschhoff, Esq.

San Buenaventura, Chair
Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair

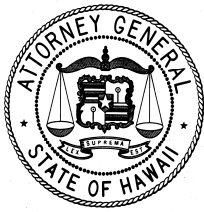
Jocelyn Rivera, Individual
6460A 102nd Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 286-9108

Aloha Senators I am writing this to support for H.B. No. 2062: Relating to the sexual exploitation of children. I am currently attending University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as a Masters Candidate. I am an advocate for increasing the services being offered state wide coordinator and steering committee to address the needs of children who have been sexually exploited. I have had experience working as a case manager throughout the island of Oahu and have come into contact with children who have been enduring extensive psychological trauma from their experiences being sexually exploited.

I believe that an important part of the proposed bill is the established multidisciplinary team that is proposed to exist in every county throughout the state. With my experience in working with children the need remains great and also the need for well-trained multidisciplinary team members is an essential component to being able to move forward with the plans to create a comprehensive state wide coordinator and steering committee for children who have been sexually exploited. Again I support the state of Hawai'i moving forward with increasing much needed services through H.B. No 2062.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Rivera
MSW Candidate University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2062, H.D. 2, RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2020 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Lynne M. Youmans, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill.

The Attorney General recognizes that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a serious problem in Hawaii. The Department agrees that the problem requires a coordinated response from government and community partners to be addressed effectively. We support having a Steering Committee with support staff focused on developing and implementing an effective response.

The Department participates in the Oahu based Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Committee formed by the Judiciary and co-chaired by the Honorable Karen M. Radius (Ret.) and Catherine Betts, Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services. We welcome the opportunity to continue to provide input and guidance on the formal Steering Committee proposed in this bill.

We strongly support the goals of public awareness, prevention, and appropriate services for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and encourage the dedication of additional resources focused on these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.