



Office of the Public Defender State of Hawai'i



Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i to the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

January 26, 2020

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

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

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

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 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 respectfully request that the advisory body include a representative from the Office of the Public Defender. 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.

HB-2062

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 1:00:59 PM

Testimony for HSH on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

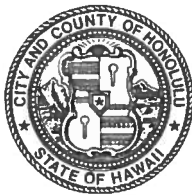
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	aauw of hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
and Homelessness
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2062, 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, 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, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Phillip Johnson in black ink.

Phillip Johnson, Acting Major
Narcotics/Vice Division



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January 27 , 2020

TO: Chair San Buenaventura and Committee on Human Services

RE: HB 2062 Relating to Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Support for hearing on January 29

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 2062 as it would establish a statewide coordinator and program for sexually exploited children and a commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to address the needs of sexually exploited children in the State. It 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.

Children are inherently vulnerable. Youth who endure severe hardship and challenges at home often runaway and become easy prey to traffickers. Much of the current interaction government has with traffic victims is with the police. We need to do better. This is a first step.

Sincerely,
John Bickel
President



Executive Director
Cindy Shimomi-Saito

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Date: January 28, 2020

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

From: Cindy Shimomi-Saito, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 2062
Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

Good morning Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

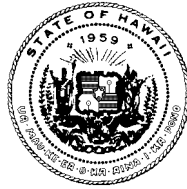
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center supports H.B. 2062. Without a doubt, children in the State of Hawai'i are vulnerable to sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. While we do not yet know the true scope of the problem, we do know that minors with histories of sexual abuse are at higher risk to be manipulated, tricked, or coerced into sexual exploitation.

There are many in our community working diligently to address this egregious crime. Many efforts are in place, and movement forward has been seen. However, the SATC supports H.B. 2062 as it seeks to establish a coordinated statewide system response to the problem. Combatting the problem will take a village, and it would behoove us all to work in a unified fashion. Coordination rather than duplication of efforts will enable a broader reach, maximization of resources, and greater results for those we strive to serve.

While the bill names local and state law enforcement representatives, the inclusion of federal law enforcement counterparts would greatly benefit this coordinated effort. Lastly, as the input of service providers will be needed at certain junctures, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center would like to offer its assistance in the area of medical-forensic care for minors who are victims of sex trafficking.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony, and encourage the passing of H.B. 2062.

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

January 27, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and offers comments.

PURPOSE: 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. Requires the sexually exploited children statewide program and the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to provide annual reports to the Legislature. 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. Appropriates funds.

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

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.

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF
HARM REDUCTION HAWAII
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

January 26, 2020

RE: HB2602 to be heard Wednesday January 29, in Room 329 at 8:30 AM
To the members of the House Committee on Human Services

OPOPOSE

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.

This bill has a number of faults. Its attempt to create some oversight committees to develop programs to fight what it calls commercial sexual exploitation of a minor. Agencies most involved with these issues aren't on its committees. Instead it adds a list of busy people in the criminal justice system.

From what I have heard from persons working in this field the first step is a needs assessment. This is a different approach than the steering committees. Such committees, even if properly staffed, would logically follow after a neutrally created needs assessment. I would recommend asking our own state university to do this and to apply whatever budget was originally considered for this steering committee plan.

I have sent a copy of the house version, HB 2062, to a list of individuals and organizations who should have been at the table when any discussion of such ideas was being had. These include the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center, the Youth Outreach Project, the Hawaii Youth Services Network, the National Association of Social Workers Hawaii Chapter, Susannah Wesley, Ho'ola Na Pua, Hale Kipa, the Hawaii Children's Action Network, Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, Hawaii Alliance on Prisons, the ACLU of Hawaii, the Sex Workers' Outreach Project Hawaii Chapter, Kulia Na Mamo, University of Hawaii professors Meda Chesney-Lind and Nandita Sharma, and others.

If you'd be willing to consider amendments to this measure I will be happy to work on that. Otherwise, I respectfully suggest you hold this bill.

Aloha



Tracy Ryan
For Harm Reduction Hawaii



LATE

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

Date: 01/29/2020
Time: 08:30 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Human Services & Homelessness

Department: Education

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

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

Purpose of Bill: 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. Requires the sexually exploited children statewide program and the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to provide annual reports to the Legislature. 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. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2062 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

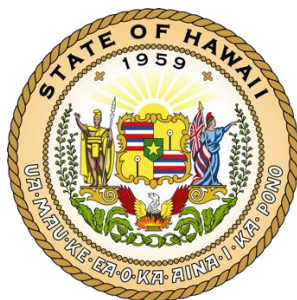
Human Services.

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 Hawai'i. 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.

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.



LATE

‘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 Human Services and Homelessness (HSH)

In Support of HB2062

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women writes in **support** of HB2062, 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.

The Hawai‘i State Commission Sex trafficking is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services. The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women is required by various federal and state laws to tackle the issue of sex trafficking.

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.

Recommended Amendment

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. Youth up to 24 are particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation with the vulnerability of young adulthood overlaying factors such as drug addiction, houselessness, sex and SOGI discrimination, and poverty. The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women requests that bill be amended to cover sexually exploited youth up to 24-years-old.

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 24.¹ States such as Minnesota extend supportive services for youth survivors 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. 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.

Recent research by the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women reveals 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.² Further, national data has shown that approximately 70% of 18 to 24-year-olds arrested for prostitution (selling) had a trafficker.³

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 forces that cause sex trafficking victims to be exploited are economic and emotional vulnerabilities, drug addiction, houselessness, dating violence, and poverty –regardless of age.

¹ 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.

² Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking in Hawai‘i Part III: Sex Trafficking Experiences Across Hawai‘i*, Arizona State University, (forthcoming).

³ Pfeffer, R., *Project 180, a Prostitution Diversion Program: An Assessment of Version 1*, University of Houston, Oct. 2019.

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

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



HB 2062, RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

JANUARY 29, 2019 · HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES AND
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JOY A.
SAN BUENAVENTURA

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports and suggests amendments for HB 2062, relating to the sexual exploitation of children, 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; requires the sexually exploited children statewide program and the commercial sexual exploitation of children steering committee to provide annual reports to the Legislature; and 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.

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.

LATE

HB-2062

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 1:19:16 PM
Testimony for HSH on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	No

Comments:

Children with hearing loss are likely to be exploited by adults due to communication barriers. This bill will give funds to support all children including deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing kids. Please pass this bill and protect all children of Hawaii.

HB-2062

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 1:19:48 AM

Testimony for HSH on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen M Radius	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the 1/29/2020 hearing on HB2062 but want to make sure that my voice is added in strong support of this bill. I am a retired Family Court Judge and am testifying as a concerned citizen.

I am currently the volunteer co-chair of the CSEC 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 discover "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. In the past Family Court on Oahu would see 4-7 cases 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 involved 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 late 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, realignment of some funding. Private non profits have done fundraising and begun to provide some services. Girls Court on Oahu has agreed to take on cases of children who have been sex trafficked. However we do not have a continuum of care. 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. These are not 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.

HB2062 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 comprehensive plan to determine what kinds of services 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 the 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

DWIGHT K. NADAMOTO
ACTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

LYNN B.K. COSTALES
ACTING FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai`i

January 29, 2020

RE: H.B. 2062; RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, 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.

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 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.