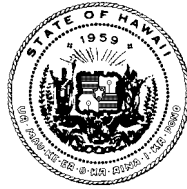


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2308 - RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

Hearing: January 29, 2020, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 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 respectfully requests that any appropriation not supplant appropriation requests prioritized in the Executive Budget.

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.



Office of the Public Defender State of Hawai'i



Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i to the Senate Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

January 26, 2020

S.B. No. 2308: RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Chairs Ruderman and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of the Public Defender supports S.B. No. 2308.

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

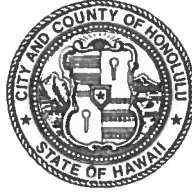
confidential setting, give our office a unique perspective that can be beneficial to the advisory body on how to effectively provide services to our clients.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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 Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Nishihara and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2308, 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 Senate Bill No. 2308, 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 Senate Bill No. 2308, Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police


Phillip Johnson, Acting Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

SB-2308

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 3:23:27 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darnella Villanueva	Testifying for Hawaii Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

January 25, 2020

To: Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

Testimony in Support of SB 2308 Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2308 Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Opinions on the prevalence and incidence of sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors vary widely. There is little objective data available to determine the level of need, populations affected, or what services are needed and desired by survivors of trafficking and their families. We support efforts to collect information and use it to develop appropriate responses to the problem.

The proposed composition of the steering committee does not include those organizations that are currently working with survivors and their families and providing prevention and education services on the issue. **Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends an amendment to the bill to include the following organizations on the steering committee:**

- **Hale Kipa**
- **Ho'ola Na Pua**
- **Susannah Wesley Community Center.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark MPH

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

January 26, 2020

RE: SB2308 to be heard Wednesday January 29, in Room 016, at 2:45 PM
To the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and on Public Safety

OPOPOSE

Dear Senators:

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 is the importance of 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



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 2:45 pm
Senate conference Room 016

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2308

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports Senate Bill 2308, 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i from sexual exploitation.

SB2308 will provide funding and structure for coordinating services and increasing public awareness about the sexual exploitation of children in the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2308.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, PhD
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee

SB-2308

Submitted on: 1/26/2020 7:27:34 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Bilyk	Testifying for Breastfeeding Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2308

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 3:52:30 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2308

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 5:08:47 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



Executive Director
Cindy Shimomi-Saito

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Lindsay Norcross Mist

Nadine Tenn Salle, M.D.

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: January 28, 2020

To: The Honorable Russell Ruderman, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

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 S.B. 2308
Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 016

Good afternoon Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, and Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center supports S.B. 2308. 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 S.B. 2308 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 S.B. 2308.



SB 2308, RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

JANUARY 29, 2019 · SENATE HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE AND SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AND MILITARY
COMMITTEE · CHAIRS SEN. RUSSELL E.
RUDERMAN AND SEN. CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports and suggests amendments for SB 2308, 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. HIDOE, 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.



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

Date: 01/29/2020

Time: 02:45 PM

Location: 016

Committee: Senate Human Services
Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2308 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 2308 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 partnerships 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 the 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 provided it does not affect existing 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 2308.

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.



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

LATE

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Human Services
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senate Bill 2308: Relating to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Chair Ruderman, Chair Nishihara and members of the Committees, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers —supports Senate Bill 2308 which seeks to address sex trafficking and commercial exploitation by: establishing a state coordinator and program within the department of human services to address the needs of sexually exploited children; establish a statewide commercial exploitation of children steering committee; establish a multidisciplinary team in each county to immediately respond to cases of sexually exploited children; and appropriate moneys for this purpose.

As an industry, we have already taken the first steps to proactively address the looming issue of human trafficking. In a joint partnership with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and nonprofit organization Ho'ola Na Pua we have successfully held educational symposiums throughout the state for our industry members, putting an emphasis on sex trafficking training. As a follow-up to the symposiums we have also established a sex trafficking disruption plan for our association. We commend the Legislature on working to address this issue and its efforts to bring a laser-like focus to the gravity of the situation. Serving as a multi-pronged approach, we believe that S.B. 2308 is a strong first step in the fight to eradicate human trafficking in our state and we strongly support its passage.

My one recommendation is that a representative from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority be included in the list of steering committee members. The tourism industry holds a unique position in its ability to play a significant role in combatting human trafficking and should be represented in these deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

SB-2308

Submitted on: 1/25/2020 1:01:36 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2308

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:59:56 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/29/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: