



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-First State Legislature, 2021 Regular Session**

**Senate Committee on Human Services**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

by

Christine E. Kuriyama

Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 722, H.D.2, Relating to Human Trafficking

**Purpose:** Establishes a statewide program overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. Requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature. Requires the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports H.B. No.722, H.D.2, with amendments as discussed in paragraph two below. The Judiciary 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 bill for the following reasons:

1. The commercial sexual exploitation of our children has become more prevalent in cases before the Family Court. Youth involved in the foster care system are especially vulnerable to becoming involved in sex trafficking. These issues also



arise in Family Court cases on the juvenile, domestic violence, child abuse, and other calendars.

2. We urge your committee to restore the establishment of the statewide coordinator as contained in the original H.B 722. Having an identified individual who could devote his/her full time and energy towards the State's efforts to combat human trafficking is essential. Our community has made strides in this effort and has been hampered by the absence of a dedicated fulltime coordinator. The highly complex and harmful nature of human trafficking requires a tightly coordinated multidisciplinary approach.
3. This bill provides for a comprehensive plan for public awareness and training on prevention and identification of victims. Being aware of the indicators of human trafficking/sexual exploitation, and knowing what to do, is the first step in assisting victims.
4. This bill provides for an analysis of the existing data specific to the commercial sexual exploitation of children. This data piece is critical to understanding the true breadth and scope of the problem in the State of Hawai'i. Only with accurate data are we able to properly pursue needed funding and allocate resources to effectively respond.
5. This bill provides for the Department of the Attorney General to prepare a comprehensive report to the Legislature prior to the 2022 session on the State's efforts to address CSEC. This will be a significant step in gathering and analyzing information on the State's efforts thus far in addressing CSEC. Much work has already been put forth while there is so much more to accomplish. Having a comprehensive report with the components stated in the bill will provide a detailed inventory of resources, outlined best practices, and recommendations for moving forward.
6. This bill amends HRS Chapter 588, relating to the Children's Justice Program, to include human trafficking in cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 14, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 722 HD2 – RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Hearing: March 16, 2021, 3:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, provides comments, and defers to the Department of Attorney General.

The House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness amended the measure by:

- (1) Removing the statewide coordinator position;
- (2) Requiring an annual report to the Legislature by the Department of the Attorney General on the State's efforts to address human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- (3) Clarifying the definition of "human trafficking";
- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Department of the Attorney General shall submit a report on the State's efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022 and a report on the State's efforts to address human trafficking no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023;

- (2) Permitting the Department of the Attorney General to submit additional reports to the Legislature at the determination of the Department; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The House Committee on Finance passed the measure unamended.

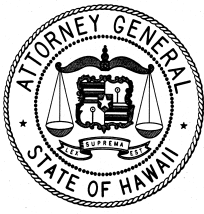
**PURPOSE:** Establishes a statewide program overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. Requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature. Requires the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)

Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2017, brought Hawaii's law into compliance with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010 (CAPTA). Act 16 (SLH 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 works 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.

Establishing a statewide program within the Department of the Attorney General is an important step to address the needs of victims and bring accountability for perpetrators of commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking.

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



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 722, H.D. 2, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 225, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Farshad M Talebi, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill and respectfully asks the committee to include the statewide human trafficking coordinator position, which was in the original draft of the bill.

The purpose of the bill is to create a statewide human trafficking program within the Department, including a requirement to submit reports to the Legislature. The bill also requires the Children's Justice Program to coordinate the investigation and case management of human trafficking cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children.

Section 2 of the original draft of the bill added a new part to chapter 28, of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), for a "Human Trafficking Statewide Coordinator and Program.", Page 3, line 20, through page 4, line 2, of the original bill provided: "The attorney general shall appoint a statewide coordinator on human trafficking for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter without regard to chapter 76." Codifying the requirement for the Attorney General to appoint the statewide coordinator in the HRS is important for the longevity of the program and the long-term success of our state's anti-trafficking efforts. Additionally, the Department has hired and appointed a statewide coordinator and is not requesting state appropriations for the position; however, having the position explicitly established in the statute would provide the Department a better opportunity to obtain federal grants to fund the program and expand it in the future.

Successfully combating human trafficking requires a comprehensive multidisciplinary response among law enforcement, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Hawaii is in need of statewide leadership in order to thoroughly assess the current problems and develop strategic solutions.

This issue is a priority for the Department, and we respectfully ask the Committee to replace the provisions for the human trafficking statewide coordinator from the original draft of the bill back into the bill, and to pass this bill.

**HB722 HD2**  
RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Lawelawe Kānaka  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Malaki 16, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Lumi 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB722 HD2, which would require the the Attorney General’s office to develop a statewide strategy to prevent human trafficking and to develop a plan to provide increased support and assistance to victims of human trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Attorney General’s office would also be required to implement statewide strategies, promote awareness of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, and develop comprehensive training regarding such matters. **The statewide program proposed by this measure would facilitate the protection of Native Hawaiian children who may be at greater risk of being sexually exploited, including through human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.**

According to the Hawai‘i Commission on the Status of Women’s qualitative study on sex trafficking in Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiian girls may have a heightened risk of being sexually abused and trafficked, potentially due to intergenerational trauma and higher rates of mental and emotional distress, poverty, and other systemic inequities.<sup>1</sup> The study found only a limited sample of trafficking victims willing to participate, but 77.3% of these participants were Native Hawaiian. 77.8% of the participants were children under the age of 18 and were in school in Hawai‘i when they were trafficked, and most of these girls also reported childhood physical abuse, sexual molestation, and rape.<sup>2</sup> A recent OHA study also revealed that Native Hawaiian girls are vastly overrepresented among juvenile runaways, and Ho‘ōla nā Pua—an organization focused on treating underaged victims of sex trafficking—has indicated that within 48 hours of being on the streets, one third of runaways will be approached for sexual services,<sup>3</sup> leaving Native Hawaiian girls especially exposed to the risk of sexual exploitation.

Therefore, the establishment of a statewide program to address human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children may be critical to mitigating the impacts of these criminal activities on Native Hawaiian girls, who may be at higher risk of falling victim to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB722 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

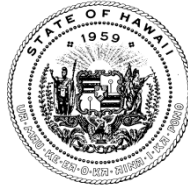
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<sup>1</sup> ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF SEX TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION & THE HAWAII‘I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, SEX TRAFFICKING IN HAWAII‘I: THE STORIES OF SURVIVORS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 5 (2019).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 9, *citing* OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA: TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING (2018).

<sup>3</sup> Ho‘ōla nā Pua, Re/imagine: A Capital Campaign to Rebuild Pearl Haven, <https://hoolanapua.org/re-imagine/> (last accessed Mar. 13, 2021).

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 16, 2021  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

**H.B. 722, H.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

House Committee on Human Services

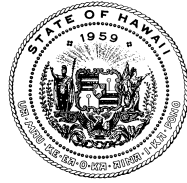
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The State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **strong support** of this bill which would (1) create a human trafficking program within the Department of the Attorney General, (2) establish a statewide human trafficking coordinator, and (3) require the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of human trafficking cases.

DOT firmly believes that a comprehensive multidisciplinary response between law enforcement, state agencies, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and the private sector is needed to combat human trafficking in Hawaii, and, in order to do so, statewide leadership is required to thoroughly develop strategic solutions to address this growing problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB722 HD2  
RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATOR LES IHARA, JR., VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 3/16/2021

Hearing Time: 3:00 PM

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) SUPPORTS the bill and defers  
2 to the Department of the Attorney General.

3 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure intersects with 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.

9 In alignment with those commitments, the Department is in favor of a coordinated  
10 effort to protect and provide justice and therapeutic supports for victims of human trafficking.  
11 We believe that this is best accomplished by gathering various stakeholders (law enforcement,  
12 state and county, judiciary, non-profit, private sector, healthcare and consumer advocate  
13 domains) under an organizing program and setting common goals and objectives.

14 **Offered Amendments:** While the Department is proud of our participation in various groups  
15 aimed at combating human trafficking, we also believe that greater synchronization is  
16 necessary to maximize resources and formally institute practices statewide. Consistent with the

1 original version of the bill, we recommend the establishment of a designated coordinator  
2 within the proposed program in order to maximize the productivity and effectiveness of efforts.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General on  
5 fiscal implications.

**HB-722-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 11:53:12 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

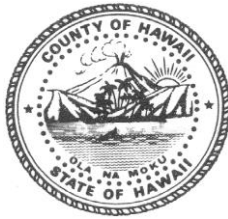
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Testifying for Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

Maui Police Department supports this bill.

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**STEPHEN L. FRYE**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 722 HD2

### A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; HUMAN TRAFFICKING; ATTORNEY GENERAL; PREVENTION; TREATMENT

#### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Honorable San Buenaventura, Honorable Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 722 HD2.

This bill was drafted with the intention to establish a statewide program to oversee and coordinate a statewide management of child human trafficking cases.

This office is aware of the exposure children may have to offenders as well as to increased access to children on the internet as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, in Hawai'i County, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney already works with multiple agencies and directly as a member of a Multidisciplinary Team that coordinates responses to crimes against children on a daily basis.

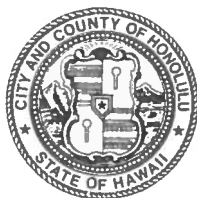
Research has shown that a system working collaboratively to provide a coordinated response encourages more victims to access services and participate in the process, more effectively holds offenders accountable, and improves the safety of victims and communities. Collaboration enables prosecutors and allied professionals to share resources, educate one another, evaluate and refine their practices on a continual basis, adapt in response to emerging issues, and ensure the sustainability of their practices.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i remains committed to the cause of ensuring that services and assistance is provided to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i, Supports the passage of House Bill No. 722 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY  
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE PJ-GK

March 16, 2021

**LATE**

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Human Services  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 722, H.D. 2, Relating to Human Trafficking

I am 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. 722, H.D. 2, Relating to Human Trafficking.

Sharing resources and coordinating efforts among service providers and law enforcement is paramount in the rescue of a most vulnerable population, our youth. The HPD supports a multi-disciplinary response to sex trafficking cases that is both victim-centered and offender-focused. We also support the establishment of a statewide coordinator and program within the Department of Attorney General that addresses the needs of sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 722, H.D. 2, Relating to Human Trafficking. Thank 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, Major  
Narcotics/Vice Division

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

**LATE**

ALII PLACE  
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STEVEN S. ALM  
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THOMAS J. BRADY  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE JOY A SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thirty-first State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawai'i**

March 16, 2021

**RE: H.B. 722, H.D. 2; RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 722, H.D. 2.

The Department strongly agrees that commercial sexual exploitation of children ("CSEC"), and human trafficking as a whole, is a dire problem in Hawaii, which could be better addressed by increased coordination among our State's various agencies. By establishing a single, statewide program under the Department of the Attorney General, Hawaii would be better equipped to effectively and efficiently implement coordinated strategies for prevention, victim assistance, law enforcement and prosecution, increased training across agencies, and public awareness, pertaining to CSEC and human trafficking.

Ultimately, increased communication, collaboration and coordination between agencies—based on thorough and uniform data collection—will mean better protections and better services for the victims and potential victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

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. 722, H.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



## HB 722, HD 2, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MARCH 12, 2021 · SENATE HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. JOY A. SAN  
BUENAVENTURA

**POSITION:** Comments with amendments.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance provides comments and suggested amendments on HB 722, HD 2, relating to human trafficking, which establishes a statewide program overseen by the Department of the Attorney General to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking; requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature; requires the Children's Justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Imua Alliance 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. During the pandemic, demand for victim services to our organization has skyrocketed by 330 percent, driven in part by a fivefold increase in direct crisis calls from potential trafficking victims.

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. Imua Alliance, 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 Imua Alliance 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 efforts to advance our state's ability to stop sexual slavery and strengthen statewide services coordination to deliver trauma-informed care to child victims of sex trafficking, but are not confident that this measure is necessary to accomplish those goals.** As indicated above, sex trafficking victims are typically trauma bonded



to their abusers. Trauma-attached coercion is like Stockholm Syndrome, involving a powerful emotional dependency on the abusers and a shift in world- and self-view that results in feelings of gratitude and loyalty toward the abusers and a denial, dismissal, or minimization of the coercion, violence, and exploitation that victims have suffered. Trauma-attached victims require placement in a coordinated continuum of care to “break” their trauma bonds, receive rehabilitative services, and reintegrate into society in a healthy manner. It is common for victims to need long-term care before recognizing the extent of the trauma they’ve suffered, much less feel emotionally and physically secure enough to participate in criminal investigations.

Yet, we note that many of the activities called for by this measure are already in the process of being effectuated by the Department of the Attorney General. Additionally, the comprehensive human trafficking program called for by this measure—including the creation and implementation of a statewide anti-trafficking strategy—will take years to complete and require a significant resource commitment from the state that may not be practicable during the current economic downturn. **Nothing in this measure calls for the Attorney General’s office to work with service providers, moreover, to ensure that the statewide program is trauma-informed and reflects the experience of the professionals who work most closely with human trafficking survivors.** Finally, the measure calls for the statewide coordinator on human trafficking to be a “czar” for prevention education programming, which may disrupt the ongoing efforts of service providers to deliver trauma-sensitive training to school staff, law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, and community members, with no guarantee that the state’s program will reflect the quality of work provided by service providers or the depth and breadth of their education programs. Accordingly, if this measure is to move forward, we ask that it be amended to require consultation with victim service providers by including the following language in Section 2 of the bill: **“The department shall consult with victim service providers in the establishment and implementation of the human trafficking program.”** We also request the addition of the following definition to the bill **“As used in this section, “victim service provider” means any non-governmental organization that provides direct intervention, social, medical, mental health, legal, case management, educational, emergency, or housing services to victims of sex trafficking.”**

**Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org**



# Hawai'i Psychological Association

*For a Healthy Hawai'i*

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 - 3:00pm - Conference Room 225 - videoconference

## **Support of HB722 HD2 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports HB722 HD2, which establishes a program to provide services to sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking, which is consistent with our agenda of promoting access to mental health services of high quality. The area of child sexual abuse requires special attention. It is a good idea for the Children's Justice Center to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important bill.

Sincerely,

Alex Lichton, Ph.D.

Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee

**HB-722-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 12:45:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shirley David	Testifying for St. Michael the Archangel Parish	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

On behalf of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Kailu Kona, I am strongly in support of HB722 HD2.

I have been attending Hawaii Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking meetings as the representative from St. Michael's for many years. The coalition has heard from several experts in the field of human trafficking from the mainland, they have discussed the studies commissioned for our islands, training has been offered and conducted by our own experts who work in the field, legislation has been offered and supported. Yet, there still is so much missing in this effort to save our youth from human trafficking. With a coordinator to pull together the pieces, and find the gaps that this bill authorizes, there is hope that when we can save our youth from this contemporary slavery.

On Freedom Day, February 1, 2021, St. Michael's anti-human trafficking ministry held a sign holding in front of St. Michael's Church on Alii Dr. downtown Kailua Kona. Several people told us they had no idea there was sex trafficking in Hawaii. Two people told us that they saw what looked like a youth being trafficking on our church property. It is hard to know the right path when we see something that looks like trafficking. Calling the hotline number is good for reporting statistics but may not get an officer with informed trauma training to the church in a timely manner.

We teach respect for the dignity of the human person at St. Michael's. We know you do as well. Vote yes on HB722 HD2 when it comes before the Human Services Committee March 16,

**HB-722-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 2:15:42 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melody Stone	Testifying for Hawaii Island Safe Net, Hawai'i Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting testimony on HB 722 as a trauma trained clinical therapist and founder of several anti-human trafficking groups in Hawai'i. I strongly support the passage of this bill that will support victims through a statewide program and provide tracking, accountability and the coordination services including investigations and case management. I am also supporting that the statute of limitations be lifted for victims of human trafficking to report crimes against them. Having worked with victims as a therapist for many years, I know it is not unusual that a victim not leave their abusive situation and thus not report for an extended period. Victims often do not feel safe reporting to authorities



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Date: March 16, 2021

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

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 HB722 HD2, Relating to Human Trafficking

Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, Via videoconference

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Good afternoon Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) is in support of HB722 HD2, Relating to Human Trafficking. This bill would require the Department of the Attorney General to address the needs of victims of human trafficking through the development of a statewide human trafficking program, provide reports to the legislature on the State's efforts to address human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and would require the Children's Justice Center to coordinate the investigation and case management of child trafficking cases.

The SATC supports this measure as establishing a statewide program within the Department of the Attorney General is an important step in addressing the needs of victims and in holding offenders accountable. The comprehensive report to the legislature reflected in the bill would provide much needed information on the prevalence of sex trafficking in Hawai'i, resources available, system strengths and limitations, and ideally, identify strategies for achieving statewide collaboration and unification.

While a statewide coordinator is no longer a part of this measure, we do believe that such a role is imperative to achieving the many outcomes identified in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-722-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 4:17:22 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stand in support

March 13, 2021

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Conference Room 225 and Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St,  
Honolulu, Oahu, HI 96813-2425  
RE: Support of HB722 HD2 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dear Senator San Buenaventura,

My name is Kevin Costello, and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a concerned member of the Honolulu community residing in Kalihi. I am testifying in support of HB722 HD2 which establishes a statewide program overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. Requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature. Requires the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

I am in support of this bill because I have witnessed first-hand the effect human trafficking can do to a person, especially children. As a future social work practitioner who plans to advocate for this underrepresented population in the future, I am aware of the lack of support and resources available to trafficking victims in our community. I am in strong support of this bill and I feel this bill will aid in getting victims the assistance they need and deserve so they can reintegrate into our communities and thrive upon passage.

Thank you,

Kevin Costello





3/15/21

Aloha Senator Buenaventura and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Brandt R. Kam, I currently reside in Makiki, and am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Masters in Social Work student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

I support HB 722 HD 2 because I believe that by (1) having the department of the attorney general develop a statewide human trafficking program, (2) having the department of the attorney general provide reports to the legislature on the State's efforts to address human trafficking, and (3) having the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child trafficking cases, it will help address the ongoing issue of children sexual trafficking and human trafficking, bring awareness to how prevalent it is in the state, and hopefully curb and one day end the vile act of not only children sex trafficking, but human trafficking in general.

I believe that a collaboration between the department of the attorney general's office and the State children's justice department will allow a joint federal and state approach to tackle this serious issue. Having the resources of the federal government could significantly bolster and accommodate the State's knowledge, data, and programs that it currently has in place. One issue in particular is how in children sex trafficking cases, it's not unheard of for sex traffickers to pay off officials. Having the attorney general's office involved could hopefully provide a solution to bringing this corrupt practice to an end. Like any underground circle of business, it's common to pay off officials in order to bypass certain parameters and security barriers, and I'm really hopeful that involving a federal prosecution agency will help crack down on this. The second clause in this bill could help with this. If the attorney general's office already has information on these corrupt officials, they could pass this information onto the legislature to inform them of what's going on.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 722 HD 2. By allowing the attorney general's office to develop a statewide human trafficking program and providing the state legislature with data, it will provide a progressive movement in addressing children sex trafficking, help in curbing it, and one day bring this horrendous act to an end.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my experiences and offer my opinions in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Brandt R. Kam

**HB-722-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:49:07 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support with comments

Please listen to those folks who tirelessly work and have offered you their ideas for amendments and paths: Imua Alliance and Harm Reduction for two.

**LATE**

**HB-722-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:57:04 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Karen M Radius, a retired Family Court Judge. I submit this testimony as an individual concerned citizen.

I strongly support this bill.

I serve as the volunteer co-Chair of the Commercial Exploitation of Children(CSEC) Steering Committee. This Committee is composed of representatives from State child serving agencies/branches on Oahu such as Family Court, Depapresentments of Human Services,Education, Health and state and county law enforcement plus federal representatives. We also hear presentations from non profit service providers and experts in the field.

Our goal is to understand the issues facing our youth and families, assess the scope of the problem and determine best practices as well as to work on better communication and cooperation among the agencies and to promote effective prosecution of perpetrators who traffick Hawaii's youth.

While much has been accomplished in this area in the past few years by state and private providers, there is much that still needs to be done. There also needs to be a specific agency with responsibility to report to the legislature in a comprehensive format so good policy and funding decisions can be made..

On February 17, 2019, DHS instituted its mandated reporter line requiring mandated reporters to report cases of children suspected of being trafficked by family or others. From Februray 2017 to December 31, 2020 there have been calls regarding nearly 300 children from as young as 6 to age 17. These children reside on each of our islands and neighborhoods,, both boys and girls. While not all reported cases are confirmed and not all the children have been located,there is clearly a need for better action in this area. We have reason to believe that there are many cases not reported and the problem may be larger than even these numbers reflect.

Children exposed to CSEC have a long and difficult road to healing, but they can survive and flourish with the right kind of supports.

HB722HD2 is essential to further clarify the scope of what Hawaii faces and to create a coordinated thoughtful plan for our kids and their families.