



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

Date: 02/12/2021

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Human Services

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 1347 RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 1347 as it includes initiatives aligned with the Department's efforts to disseminate information about sexual abuse and sex trafficking to its employees that supports the health and welfare of all its students. The Department respectfully offers comments.

Currently, the Department collaborates with the Susannah Wesley Community Center, Pacific Survivor Center and Ho Ola Na Pua to deliver sex trafficking education, resources, activities, strategies and workshops to students, faculty, complex area staff, and school communities. Commercially Sexually Exploited Children training/programming has been delivered at numerous Department secondary schools, complex areas and district offices throughout the state with the goal of delivering training and programming to all secondary schools.

Additionally, the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Unit Program Development office offers training to Department schools regarding mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse in addition to the Department's mandatory reporter training at the beginning of each school year. The Sexual Violence Prevention working group is a public/private sector group of child-serving organizations which convened during school year 2019-2020. This group included membership from the following organizations:

- Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center;
- Pacific Survivor Center;
- Young Women's Christian Association;
- Hawaii Youth Services Network;
- Catholic Charities Hawaii;
- Hawaii State Department of Health;
- Hawaii State Department of Human Services; and
- Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General.

These agencies offer developmentally appropriate sexual violence prevention resources which may include consultation services, educational sessions, training and workshops for students, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Department staff, and the community. This working group developed an online resource repository, "Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Schools" (bit.ly/HIDOE-SVP), that is easily accessible and houses sexual violence prevention resources and supports for schools and school communities .

The Department is committed to its ongoing, continuing collaborative partnerships to provide sex trafficking prevention training at all secondary schools and does not feel legislation is necessary to accomplish this goal at this time.

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

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.



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Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION and
THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

RE: SB 1347 - RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 1347** relating to sex trafficking prevention. Requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

Schools are, perhaps, the main social institution outside of the family in which children have constant contact with adults and their peers. It is an optimal place, then, to identify children in danger of sexual maltreatment.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. Yet, studies have shown that up to 81 percent of teachers receive little pre-service information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given in-service (on the job) information. While programs currently exist to train teachers and staff in handling sexual trauma that often accompanies abuse and neglect, implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important for teachers to be informed on how to prevent sexual trauma and handle related incidents on campus. At a time when the number of sex trafficking victims being identified in our state's childcare and education systems is on the rise, sex abuse prevention lessons are especially crucial to combat student exploitation and effectively implement new protocols coordinated by the Hawaii Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family Courts.

Sex trafficking is differentially defined as the use of "force, fraud, or coercion" to compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who should be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found



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working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com.

The average age of a victim's entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of "solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks" (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual abuse, so must we safeguard against the related crime of sex trafficking and provide educators with the tools needed to provide trauma-informed care in their classrooms.

To protect our keiki from sexual abuse, exploitation, and sex trafficking, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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LATE

STEVEN S. ALM
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**THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

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

**Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i**

February 21, 2020

RE: S.B. 1347; RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

Chair Kidani, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the both the Senate Committee on Education and 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 S.B. 1347.

The purpose of S.B. 1347 is to require training for various personnel within the Department of Education, on effective and trauma-informed strategies for prevention of and responses to sex trafficking and sexual violence, particularly among Hawaii's children.

The Department strongly agrees that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a dire problem in Hawaii, which could be better addressed by increased awareness and training within our State's various agencies. The Department also supports increased collaboration and communication between government agencies, and welcomes any opportunity for discussion or participation in multiagency efforts to address this serious problem.

For all the reasons above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage S.B. 1347. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

Exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion

Anyone under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act

Sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude

A highly profitable crime

Exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SEX TRAFFICKING

Victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES



SUBURBS



RURAL TOWNS



CITIES

FORCED LABOR

Victims are made to work for little or no pay. Very often, they are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day.



DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Victims are hidden in plain sight, forced to work in homes across the United States as nannies, maids, or domestic help.



VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING MIGHT BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD, OR WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS, EVEN IF IT IS HAPPENING RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

NO MATTER AGE, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY, SEX, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS



RECOGNIZE AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- To report suspected trafficking to federal law enforcement, call 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at www.ice.gov/tips.
- Get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to 233733 (BEFREE).
- Call 911 or local law enforcement if someone is in immediate danger.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn more about the **indicators** of human trafficking: DHS.gov/BlueCampaign.
- Use Blue Campaign **materials** to raise awareness of human trafficking in your community.
- Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**.

TESTIMONY

Harm Reduction Hawaii
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB1347 to be heard on Friday February 12, at 3PM in conference room 229

Oppose

To the Senate Committees on Human Services and Education

You are putting the cart before the horse here. HB722/SB543 create the position of statewide coordinator within the Department of Attorney General. You should allow this process to proceed to gather data and make recommendations that would include any curriculum that may be used in the DOE.

The DOE does not need the legislature to compel them to adopt these policies. Nor should the bullet point details as to what is to be taught and suggestions as to who is to teach it be written into law. Please leave the people trying to make progress the flexibility to do so without the end result being written into statute.

The preamble to this bill is particularly problematic referring to an ASU/HSCSW study that has been criticized widely, including from within our own University of Hawaii. On the other hand expert input from folks such as the Youth Outreach Project and UH Professor Meda Chesney-Lind does not seem to be solicited.

Please hold this bill and allow for an open minded and intelligent process to deal with the issues. Pass instead the bill to create the statewide coordinator and leave them the freedom from political influence these problems need.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan
Executive Director, Harm Reduction Hawaii

Below are recommendations on what needs to be done. I understand many legislators feel a political need to “do something”. However doing the wrong thing may be worse than doing nothing.

Moving forward to address minors in the sex trades

- I. Topics must be understood in terms of variables that effect the experience of youth.
 - A. The age of the youth involved, both currently and at outset.
 - 1. Pre-puberty, (Children under age 11)
 - 2. Pari-Puberty, (Children age 11 to 15)
 - 3. Post-Puberty, (Adolescents age 15 to 19)
 - B. The Gender of the youth involved
 - 1. Boy
 - 2. Girl
 - 3. Trans-girl
 - 4. Other (seldom seen)
 - C. The situation the youth are in
 - 1. Under the control of a manipulative and/or abusive adult facilorator (pimp/trafficker)
 - 2. On their own as runaways
 - 3. On their own, but still with family
 - 4. Working with other teens who may facilitate and also sell sex without coercion
 - D. The client base buying sex varies, although is generally male
 - 1. Adults seeking children under age 11 are pedophiles.
 - 2. Adults seeking children who are pari-puberty are hebephiles.
 - 3. Adults seeking post pubescent adolescents are ephebophiles.
 - 4. Teenagers purchasing sex from other teens
 - 5. Adults purchasing sex from older teens assuming they are adults
- II. Obstacles to assisting minors in the sex trades
 - A. They don't want to be helped.
 - 1. They may have formed a bond and identification with an adult facilitator.
 - 2. They may have experienced negative results with social service and government agencies.
 - B. Their identified needs
 - 1. Age of majority limits many to illegal activities
 - a. Statements such as “I will stop doing this when I turn 18, and can do other work”
 - b. Suppressing prostitution among this group may not solve the problems they have identified, and will likely lead them to other illegal activities.
 - 2. Services set up by adults without proper input
 - a. Service resistant youth need to be asked to help design programs.
 - b. Youth need to be able to have their requested needs addressed first.
 - c. Access to services should be low threshold and delivered with a minimum of delays and paperwork.
 - 3. Overemphasis on prostitution as their problem.
 - a. This tends to create programs and laws that focus on a problem not seen by the youth, while ignoring their stated reasons for accessing services.

- b. Focus on arresting sex purchasers is harmful to many of the youth involved who are older and more likely to turn to other crimes.
- c. Dealing with traffickers, particularly those who are providing children to pedophiles and hebephiles should be the law enforcement priority.
- d. Mixing adolescents with children, or self-working youth, with those being controlled is not helpful in developing comprehensive strategies.
- e. Adult men who are attracted to older teens, or who hire them without knowing they may be 17 (rather than 20) should not be put into the same punitive legal status as those who seek out and purchase children.

III. Building a framework of better policies

A. Understand that people may see this through the lens of perspective.

- 1. Law enforcement will develop theories based on youth who have been involved with the criminal justice system.
- 2. Rescue agencies will develop theories based on the youth who they provide services to.
- 3. Outreach workers will develop theories based on what they see in the community.
- 4. Persons who have worked or who are working as minors in the sex trades, will hold views colored by their specific storyline.
- 5. None of these points of view can be considered as complete truth. So cooperation is essential.

B. Persons from differing backgrounds must get along

- 1. People with a reputation for creating or circulating junk science may be problematic.
- 2. People who engage in name calling and abuse in person or online may be a problem.
- 3. People working on this project should be civil and honest.
- 4. People working on this project should take a dispassionate approach to data, despite its emotional impact.
- 5. Facilitators should be sources of unity and purpose and not of division and controversy.



February 10, 2021

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Education

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Human Services

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 1347, Friday, February 12, 2021, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229, by Zoom

Aloha,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus strongly supports SB1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention that would require the Dept of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response. SB518, HD 1 also requires the DOE to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program.

We believe that these initiatives are needed and may help to mitigate sexual abuse and sex trafficking, especially of Native Hawaiian women, girls, and members of the lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer community.

As noted in SCR 8, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, 77% were Native Hawaiian, and then subsequently found that 64% were Native Hawaiian in 2019; and from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiians, and 95% were girls.

Given these alarming statistics, we urge you to pass SB1347 because as noted in the bill, education helps to end exploitation.

Me kealoha pumehana

JUANITA MAHIENAENA BROWN KAWAMOTO
Chair



SENATE BILL 1347, RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

FEBRUARY 12, 2021 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports SB 1347**, relating to sex trafficking prevention, which requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

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, Imua Alliance, a nonprofit victim service provider for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence, estimates 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. 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 measures to advance our state's ability to stop sexual slavery, including this measure's effort to increase school-based sex trafficking prevention by requiring the DOE to offer trauma-informed training to school staff about sexual exploitation. **The training called for by this measure could be performed by victim service providers, moreover, many of whom would gladly provide the training at no charge to the department.**

We note that the training criteria called for in section 2 of this measure are evidence-based, informed by best practices, and encapsulate key elements of trauma prevention that experts believe are important components of any modern trauma prevention program, such as the impact of trauma on different genders, sexual orientations, and racial demographics, and an emphasis on enthusiastic consent, along with strategies to provide a trauma-informed response when students are identified as being victims or at risk of exploitation. Given that school communities are often targeted by traffickers and are places in which behavioral changes caused by sexual violence in children are likely to be observed, it is critical that we provide adequate training to school personnel to ensure that our keiki are safe from sexual servitude.

Slavery has no place in paradise. Together, we can end exploitation on our shores.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus ·

(808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com



SB 1347, RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

FEBRUARY 12, 2021 · SENATE EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI AND SEN. JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA

POSITION: Strong support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **strongly supports SB 1347**, relating to sex trafficking prevention, which requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

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 160 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.**

We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. **When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach.** Teachers, in turn, frequently request

information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state's prolific slave trade.

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."

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We note that the training criteria called for in section 2 of this measure are evidence-based, informed by best practices, and encapsulate key elements of trauma prevention that experts believe are important components of any modern trauma prevention program, such as the impact of trauma on different genders, sexual orientations, and racial demographics, and an emphasis on enthusiastic consent, along with strategies to provide a trauma-informed response when students are identified as being victims or at risk of exploitation. Given that school communities are often targeted by traffickers and are places in which behavioral changes caused by sexual violence in children are likely to be observed, it is critical that we provide adequate training to school personnel to ensure that our keiki are safe from sexual servitude.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1347 (WITH RECOMMENDATIONS): Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention

February 11, 2021

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Education

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Human Services

From: Joni N. Chun, Executive Director, Susannah Wesley Community Center

Hearing: 3pm, Friday, February 12, 2021, Conference Room 229

Senators Kidani and San Benaventura, Chairs and Members of the Committees on Education and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1347 which would require the Department of Education to offer sex trafficking prevention and response training to teachers, educational officers and school-based behavioral specialists.

I am Joni Chun, Executive Director of the Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC), a non-profit organization with over 13 years of experience in providing crisis response, intensive case management, victim support and outpatient mental health services to child and adult victims of sex and labor trafficking. **SWCC supports SB 1347** and would like to **recommend a broadened scope of targeted trainees** to include campus security and staff responsible for monitoring campus activity. This recommendation is based on knowledge that trafficking activities are occurring on campus before, during, and after school. We believe raising awareness and providing tools and resources to mandated reporters who have frequent interaction with our youth in school settings will aid in our collective effort to prevent child sex trafficking.

On behalf of the Susannah Wesley Community Center, we thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony and reiterate our **support for SB 1347**.

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:59:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwenyth Claughton	Testifying for Pacific Survivor Center	Support	No

Comments:

February 11, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 1347 from Pacific Survivor Center

Dear Senators,

On behalf of Pacific Survivor Center, I respectfully submit this letter as our support for the passage of SB 1347 that requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response. We would go further by suggesting that ALL school-based personnel including security, custodial, and support staff be included in such trainings.

Since 2019 Pacific Survivor Center has been providing our Sex Trafficking Outreach and Prevention Program (STOPP) as a free resource to DOE schools. PSC created STOPP as a result of our decade of experience treating survivors of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). PSC collaborated with Hawai'i's foremost experts in human trafficking to develop STOPP to educate and empower youth and their allies.

We know from experience that schools are locations where recruiters prey on the most vulnerable, but we also know that they can also be places of prevention and intervention. Passage of SB 1347 will help ensure that schools can be the latter.

Respectfully,

Gwenyth Claughton

Acting Executive Director

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:19:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alec Marentic	Testifying for Hawaii Association of School Psychologists	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Association of School Psychologists (HASP) supports this bill.

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 9:57:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

Anything we can do to educate is important. That being said, we also have to eliminate the reasons for trafficking, tourism, the military (ie RIMPAC) and drugs.

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 1:50:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Quach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Representative Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Representative Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Friday, February 12, 2021

Support for S.B. No. 1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention

I am a social work student, an employee at an adolescent sexual abuse treatment facility, and a parent of a four-year-old daughter. I strongly support S.B. No. 1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention, which will provide teachers, students, and other educational individuals the opportunity to learn about up-to-date sex trafficking exploit schemes, prevention techniques, and proper intervention protocols.

Children, at this age, will encounter many emotional and physical challenges that are uncommon to them. Their curiosity, lack of understanding, and poor impulse control will often prompt them to explore these unknown situations before seeking appropriate consultation or rationalizing their thoughts. In many cases, those who become sexually abused have only realized their detrimental position in hindsight.

Exposure to sex trafficking information at school at a young age is an imperative prevention initiative. Education in a group setting will increase their bonds with educators and peers, develop positive support groups to which they can gather and

interpret information, and become critical thinkers about their future potential threats, feelings, and emotions. Furthermore, this will increase their knowledge about the world and, hopefully, spread awareness of this subject with their caregivers.

By discussing these difficult and vulnerable positions with our keiki, we provide them with the tools to conquer complex, confusing, and unknown situations. I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1347. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

S.B. No. 1347: RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

To: Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Ihara, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Education

February 12th, 2021 3:00 PM

My name is Whitney Young and I am writing today to support S.B. 1347, Education is a powerful tool that can bring to light even the darkest subject matters, the exploitation of minors being one of them. It is a deeply troubling topic, but one that can only be fought with community awareness. Teachers are not only a vital part of our community, but interact with our keiki the most outside of the home. Through training and learning how to have age appropriate discussions with students about safety, it is my hope that this bill will help more keiki feel empowered to speak out against the abuse that they so often endure in silence.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this bill,

Whitney Young

Bridget Conlon

Friday, February 12, 2021

Support for SB1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention

My name is Bridget Conlon, and I am a high school student living in Kailua. I strongly support SB1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention, requiring the Department of Education to offer education for teachers, educational officers and behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response. This bill is an important step towards ensuring that students and keiki are better protected and can rely on their teachers and schools to keep them safe.

The issue of sex trafficking and other forms of human trafficking is much more serious than most people understand. There is an estimated 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking globally, and the most vulnerable targets are children or those under the age of 18¹. The majority victims of sex trafficking are minors that range from 14-16 years old with many of them being first trafficked at 11 years old².

The aspect of sex trafficking that most concerns me is that any child can be effected. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section³, all children are vulnerable to becoming a trafficking victim, regardless of their racial or socioeconomic background. Children are more susceptible to forms of manipulation and coercion when they have a lack of dependable guardians or suffer from low self esteem.

¹ End Slavery Now. *Sex Trafficking*. End Slavery Now. Accessed Feb. 9, 2021, available at <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking>

² Ho'ola Na Pua. *Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i*. Ho'ola Na Pua Accessed Feb. 9, 2021, available at <https://hoolanapua.org/trafficking-research/>

³ Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. *Child Sex Trafficking*. U.S Department of Justice. Accessed Feb. 9, 2021, available at <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/child-sex-trafficking>

Providing training to our teachers on sex trafficking prevention is extremely important in ensuring that students can have adult figures to depend on for safety and protection.

Child victims of sex trafficking can suffer from lifelong trauma. Often, the fact that they are victims of sex trafficking can go unidentified or misidentified as other issues, and minors may only be treated for surface problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, STDs, mental illness, and/or teen pregnancy⁴. It is vital that we prevent sex trafficking early on and protect our keiki. I urge the committees and senate to pass SB1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bridget Conlon

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⁴ Shared Hope International. *What is Sex Trafficking?*. Shared Hope International. Accessed Feb. 9, 2021, available at <https://sharedhope.org/the-problem/what-is-sex-trafficking/?scrlybrkr=0a772766>

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:24:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/12/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LaTasia Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that the DOE should offer training for educators on sex trafficking prevention and response. School administrators and other school personnel may come into contact with youth who are or may have been a victim of sex trafficking in the past. They should be trained on this because they may find themselves in situation where they having more awareness on child sex trafficking may have made a difference in a students life.

Dear Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee:

Aloha, my name is Tiana Tamura, and I am currently seeking my Master of Social Work through the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I support SB 1347 relating to sex trafficking prevention.

The influx of sex trafficking victims and online sex buyers in Hawaii indicates the demand for education and programs in Hawaii's public school system regarding sex trafficking. Providing training to teachers and school staff will enable the public school system to recognize, educate, and reduce sex trafficking victims' statistics. By giving educators the training skills, students can be well informed about sex trafficking and identify the signs, dangers, and exploitation that could occur. This bill could be the steppingstone to protecting our future generation on this issue.

The field that I am in, I see the importance of educating and providing resources to individuals in our community about critical social issues, which is why I strongly support this bill to help achieve awareness and prevention of sex trafficking. I graduated high school in 2016, and during my academic years, there were no recourses, programs, or information given, which made me oblivious to this dilemma. The lack of understanding about sex trafficking in our school systems makes our community more susceptible to sex trafficking. This bill's approval will not hinder our community but improve and make our community safer for our Keiki and young adults.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tiana Tamura