



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

Date: 02/03/2021

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0518 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention, provide relevant training to teachers and staff, and inform parents and guardians about important child sexual abuse topics. Requires the board of education to adopt policies to effectuate the program. Requires reports to the legislature. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 518. The Department recognizes the important role of public education in addressing sexual violence prevention and as such has a number of efforts moving forward to address this issue.

Currently, the Department implements Board Policy 103-5 Sexual Health Education and is in the process of updating a list of vetted instructional materials for sexual health education and sexual violence prevention education, which includes developmentally appropriate instruction on developing healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation.

Additionally, from October 2018 to June 2020, the Department established a collaborative multi-agency work group to explore, develop, and communicate an array of strategies, activities, and resources around sexual violence prevention in Hawaii's public schools. The work group included representatives from the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of the Attorney General, Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Hawaii Youth Services

Network, Pacific Survivor Center, Young Women's Christian Association of Kauai, and Catholic Charities. The resulting website "Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Schools" (bit.ly/HIDOE-SVP) was published in October 2020 and shared with all Department staff via a memo as well as the public through various committees and working groups.

Along with these efforts, the Department provides annual mandatory reporter training (child abuse reporting) to all faculty and staff, including contracted providers, paraprofessionals, substitutes, and temporary hires.

Due to the expansive scope of establishing and implementing a statewide program for students, teachers and staff, and parents and guardians, the Department anticipates that additional time will be needed for the initial planning, preparation, and evaluation for the subsequent training and implementation. Teachers and school staff would need professional development prior to implementing the proposed education program with students. While the Department is appreciative of the appropriation in the measure for the operations of this program, should the measure move forward, the Department respectfully recommends that the activities and appropriations be extended over three years of phased activities with the first year being used to prepare for phased training and implementation.

It is worth noting that the Department's ongoing work and commitment to supporting students' health, well-being, and safety currently address the issue highlighted by this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 518.

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.

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

Carole Gruskin, 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

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

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 30, 2021

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

Testimony in Support of SB 518 Relating to Education

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 518 Relating to Education.

One in five girls and one in twenty boys have been victims of child sexual abuse. Three out of four adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. (National Center for Victims of Crime data).

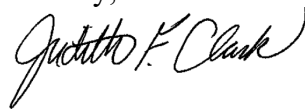
The only education I received about sexual abuse or trafficking as a child was to beware of strangers. But it was not a stranger who sexually abused me and five other girls in my fourth grade class – It was my school bus driver. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more until someone finally reported it to the school. When we were questioned about it, we all entered the Principal's office believing that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first time with the first child.

This bill will equip students, school personnel, and parents with the skills they need to keep our children safe from sexual abuse.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: February 3, 2021; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229

RE: TESTIMONY FOR SB 518 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

We support SB 518 relating to education and encourage Hawaii to join 37 other states by implementing Erin’s Law, which will help to protect our children through implementation of a prevention-oriented sexual abuse program.

The statistics are daunting:

- 1 in 4 girls will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 5 youth receive a sexual approach or solicitation over the internet.
- The average age for first abuse is 9.6 years of age.
- Only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to police.
- 29% of forcible rapes occur when the victim was under 11 years of age.
- 44% of sexual abuse victims are under the age of 18.
- 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker.
- Our Children’s Justice Centers support over a 1,000 children each year. That’s about 3 new children every day (which is still a fraction of all those who are impacted by sexual abuse).

This is a matter that is often kept silent and as a result if left unaddressed (most people do not even realize that this is a significant issue or that they are a victim). In almost every case, the only witnesses to this crime are the perpetrator and the victim. Perpetrators often tell the child this is a secret and no one will believe them. Children rarely report abuse and are meant to feel that the abuse was their fault. Most victims never tell anyone until several years after the abuse, if they ever tell at all.

We feel that implementing age appropriate child sexual abuse training immediately is critically important. Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. If we do not take strong measures to address the matters that impact child sexual abuse, this issue will continue to impact our community and will only negatively impact Hawai`i's future, people, keiki, communities, culture, economy, reputation, commerce, and industries. Let's put protection in place against those who take advantage of the most vulnerable, as they are the culprits and drivers of this criminal enterprise. This is cutting into the fabric of the Aloha State and is not acceptable here in Hawai`i.

The children who endure this traumatic sexual abuse have a long list of adverse issues. These issues include:

- Poor academic performance
- Dropping out of high school
- Self mutilation
- Persistent post traumatic stress disorder
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships
- Difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships
- Cognitive deficits
- Depression
- Dissociative symptoms
- Suicide

With the **full implementation of Erin's Law in place**, we can focus on prevention-oriented education that will empower victims and those who care for them. It is critical to educate students, educators and parents about how to recognize and identify child sexual abuse so that victims can be identified early and so that support can be put in place to significantly reduce the likelihood of the long-term adverse issues and costs of the above listed items.

We support the full implementation of Erin's Law because it will provide:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education for children in grades as early as pre-kindergarten through high school.
- Tools to help children speak up and seek help.
- Intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
- Training for school staff and faculty regarding child sexual abuse prevention and the handling of sexual abuse disclosures.
- Education for parents on how to recognize the signs, communicate with their children and seek help.

Erin's Law leverages the relationship between schools and the child. Schools are primary connections to our communities that also share strong relationships with our parents and keiki. It would only be natural that we take advantage of those trusting relationships to provide the services they need and further benefit from. The teachers who spend time with the students on a daily basis should be able to recognize signs of unhealthy influence and link resources to their families. Students may also feel more comfortable talking with a trusted teacher than their own caring parents due to the complicated circumstances that could exist. School personnel should no longer wonder out of suspicion or feel hopeless in attempts to help students in need. We strongly believe our time should be invested in direct action in order to provide students with the services they need, before they are further affected by the negative impacts of sexual abuse.

37 States have passed Erin's Law, and Hawaii is one of the remaining states yet to pass this law. We would like to see Erin's Law implemented immediately and hope that you consider supporting the full implementation of the law through SB 518.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **SB 518**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

SB-518

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:34:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Erin Merryn. I am a mother to three small girls and an Illinois resident my entire life.

I am the founder of Erin's Law. A law that requires personal body safety to be taught in public schools to children once a year. Erin's Law is currently passed in 37 states. I have traveled across America for the last 11 years testifying to lawmakers on Erin's Law. I came to Hawaii in 2017 trying to pass it. Sadly 4 years later it still has not been passed.

As a child I was taught yearly in school tornado drills, bus drills, fire drills, stranger danger, DARE, Bully intervention, internet safety, look both ways when you cross the street. I knew not to go look for the lost puppy, I knew how to run out of the burning building, and I graduated from DARE knowing the 8 ways of how to say NO to drugs. But where were the 8 ways on how to get away and tell today? They never came in my childhood. At my very first overnight at my best friend's house her uncle sexually abused me. When he continued to molest me and eventually raped me at 7 years old as I kept it a secret. This man threatened me that he would come get me if I told anyone. From ages 6 to 8 I continued to be molested and raped by him.

My saving grace came at 8 ½ when I learned we were moving only to find out I was getting that much closer to my next perpetrator this time a family member. From 11-13 years old my older teenaged cousin molested me. He threatened me every time that this was our secret, no one would believe me, and I would destroy our family if I told. The only message I was getting as a child was from the men hurting me and that was to stay silent. Had I been taught to speak up and not keep this a secret, or what a safe touch and unsafe touch is, a safe secret and an unsafe secret, I feel I would have spoken up from the start instead of being abused for years as a child. It is the lesson we fail to teach our children across this world and I have made it my mission for every child to be empowered with the voice I never had as a kid. I broke my silence after my sister came to me and told me our cousin was sexually abusing her too. Had someone come in and taught us in school not to keep this a secret it could have saved us years of abuse.

Often children are abused for years and don't come forward until they are adults because they were educated only to stay silent and afraid it was their fault. There are currently 753,000 registered sex offenders in America.

In December 2015 President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act and in that bill there is federal funding provided for every state to be used for Erin's Law. So it is no longer an unfunded mandated.

We put so much emphasis on stranger danger with kids when 93% of the time children are abused by someone they know and trust. Only 7% of the time it is that stranger we worry so much about. There are 42 million survivors of sexual abuse living in America right now. 3 million of those are children. That could fill 46 national football stadiums. Get that image in your head for a moment. These children are sitting in our classrooms everyday living in silence as their innocence is being killed and the psychological impact this is having on them as they live in this horror.

This law is common sense. I'm asking for an hour out of the school year to give children the voice I never had. Without that voice we are allowing sex offenders of our world to silence our children and kill their innocence. It is time we start fighting the war going on in our own backyards by empowering children with their voice and putting sex offenders out of business. I am on a mission to get this passed in all 50 states and will not stop until I do. Don't let Hawaii be the last. Please pass SB518.

Thank You,

Erin Merryn

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members:

I am a survivor of childhood sex abuse and I support SB 518.

Hawaii needs to provide consistent and accurate sex abuse education and prevention to help prevent child sex abuse (CSA). CSA is confusing, creates feelings of shame, guilt and anger, and destroys your ability to trust. Your ability to connect with other people is crippled since you feel alone and that the abuse was your fault. Many people's lives have been ruined by sex abuse; destructive effects include depression, addiction, and suicide.

As a survivor, talking about the abuse is hard, especially if we don't have the words to describe the confusing and terrifying actions being committed against us. The earlier we provide education and training to students and teachers, counselors and other adults in charge, the better chance we have in preventing another unfortunate victim of sex abuse

I ask the respected committee members today to please consider SB 518 and pass "Erin's Law" that has already been implemented in 37 states. Please bring Hawaii up-to-date with education that will help protect children from predators. Thank you.

Andre Bisquera

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 518 Relating to Education
DATE: February 3, 2021
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony and **SUPPORTS THE INTENT of SB 518** which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program, provide relevant training to teachers and staff about important child sexual abuse topics, and requires the Board of Education (BOE) to adopt policies to effectuate the program.

As this legislation has described the importance of this program, the Commission requests this measure be amended to include public charter schools, allow charter school participation in the development of the program in collaboration with the DOE, and by specifying the BOE adopt board policies applicable to all public schools, including public charter schools.

In addition, the Commission humbly requests that any appropriations made for the implementation of this program account for charter school-related expenses as well as DOE expenses.

The Commission is available to assist in facilitating any collaboration and input from the public charter schools to the Legislature and DOE to effectuate this program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Executive Director
Cindy Shimomi-Saito

ADVISORY BOARD

President
Mimi Beams

Joanne H. Arizumi

Andre Bisquera

Kristen Bonilla

Dawn Ching

Monica Cobb-Adams

Donne Dawson

Donalyn Dela Cruz

Dennis Dunn

Steven T. Emura, M.D.

Councilmember
Carol Fukunaga

David I. Haverly

Linda Jameson

Lindsay Norcross Mist

Nadine Tenn Salle, M.D.

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: February 2, 2021

To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

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 SB 518
Relating to Education

Hearing: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 3:00pm

Good afternoon Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) is in strong support of SB 518, with amendments.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people in Hawaii be taught the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves against sexual assault and obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible. Moreover, it is critical that those who interact the most with children and young people, including parents, other guardians, educators and school staff, receive sufficient training to understand key sexual violence issues and how to respond appropriately.

Recognizing this need, the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health (DOH), and SATC worked together on the Erin's Law Task Force and gathered a group of stakeholders to review and improve the delivery of sexual violence prevention education and training in Hawaii. The effort yielded a resource hub in which teachers can learn of sexual assault prevention education programs available in the State and can reach out to the resources if interested.

Unfortunately, nothing of significance has resulted to ensure that Hawaii's children receive the knowledge and skills needed in this area, nor has anything resulted to ensure those on the front line in schools working with our children have the knowledge they need to provide appropriate intervention in this area.

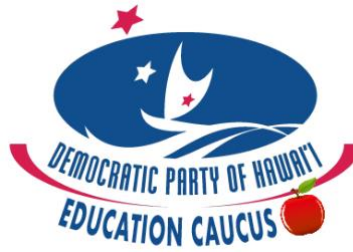
Given that the current approach has vetted little results, we agree that a mandate is necessary. However, due to the difficult fiscal environment that the State and DOE are currently experiencing, we ask that the bill be amended to include a phased in approach to training. This would entail training the trainers first (District leaders, principals, Title IX Coordinators, and select staff identified as key designees at each school) on talking about/responding to the issue as reflected in Section 2 (1) (F). The need for trained, designated persons at each school is needed to ensure appropriate response and guard against further trauma when a child takes the step to disclose victimization. These individuals would in turn train the teachers. Once the institutional foundation is in place, the teachers would then teach the students and parents.

We are aware that bills requiring funding are unlikely to pass this session. However, we ask that you pass the bill with zero funding, keeping it as a place holder until such time when funds become available.

Laws requiring that public school systems implement a program on sexual abuse prevention education for students, teachers and staff have passed in 31 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 17 others.

We ask that Hawai'i ensure such protection for the children of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



SENATE BILL 518, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 3, 2020 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports SB 518**, relating to education, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention, provide relevant training to teachers and staff, and inform parents and guardians about important child sexual abuse topics, and requires the Hawai'i Board of Education to adopt policies to effectuate the program.

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, the Caucus supports measures to advance our state's ability to stop sexual slavery, including this measure's effort to increase school-based prevention education and training about sexual abuse. While this measure does not specifically cover the issue of sex trafficking, we note that childhood sexual abuse is a strong indicator of and leading precursor to sexual exploitation. **Relatedly, we urge your committee to pass SB 1347, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.** Together, these two measures will significantly strengthen our state's response to childhood sexual abuse and child sex trafficking, while enhancing our ability to prevent exploitation before it begins.

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 518, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 3, 2021 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **supports SB 518**, relating to education, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention, provide relevant training to teachers and staff, and inform parents and guardians about important child sexual abuse topics, and requires the Hawai'i Board of Education to adopt policies to effectuate the program.

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."

Accordingly, we support measures to advance our state's ability to stop sexual slavery, including this measure's effort to increase school-based prevention education and training about sexual abuse. While this measure does not specifically cover the issue of sex trafficking, we note that childhood sexual abuse is a strong indicator of and leading precursor to sexual exploitation. **Relatedly, we urge your committee to pass SB 1347, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.** Together, these two measures will significantly strengthen our state's response to childhood sexual abuse and child sex trafficking, while enhancing our ability to prevent exploitation before it begins.

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

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

SB-518

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 4:13:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support this measure, but wonder why it is only applicable to DOE/public education and not private schools, too. If legislature is unable to mandate this education for private schools, perhaps, it can consider a resolution to urge such schools to have similar education.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senator Kidani, Chair
Senator Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

LATE

Re: **SB 518- Relating to Education**
3:00 PM, February 3, 2021

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of Senate Bill 518, which would require the department of education to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention, provide relevant training to teachers and staff, and inform parents and guardians about important child sexual abuse topics**

Thirty-seven states have enacted a model of "Erin's Law," named after a child abuse survivor and advocate Erin Merryn, which requires all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- Developmentally appropriate instruction for each grade level, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult;
- School personnel all about child sexual abuse;
- Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. It is critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from sexual abuse.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests that your committee vote to pass this bill.

Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

RE: SB 518, Relating to Education

POSITION: Strongly Support



Aloha,

My name is Tina Porrás-Jones. First and foremost, I am a proud mother of 3 children for most of which I have raised as a single mom most of their lives. I have 23 year old twins that have recently graduated from UW and UH and a 15 year old at Mililani HS. On November 2, 2014 I was asked to meet with my twin daughters boyfriend's parents alone. I made my way to their house worried. They helped her to tell me that she had been sexually assaulted repeatedly for the last 2 years by my then, husband their stepfather. That was the day we all will never forget. Our world was shattered and the blended family life with 6 kids as we knew it for the prior 10 years came to a halt. This perpetrator helped me raise all my girls for the last 10 years of our lives, they were 8 years old and 17 at the time of disclosure. I immediately cradled my daughter and cried along with her. We then called for my other twin to come to the house to check on her safety. Yes, she said, she had been assaulted too. I cried and wept so loud, then ran to the bathroom to vomit. My youngest was not harmed, thank God. We immediately called the police and soon the house was swarmed with cops. 7 years later we are STILL waiting for prosecution and have been promised by the prosecuting attorney that they will not stop. We are not convinced the system will help us put this perpetrator in jail where he belongs. Growing up I always told my girls not to let anyone touch any part of you, you see I devoted my life's work to helping children of abuse and neglect. For the last 30 years I have spent my life working in many roles for children advocacy from Child Protective Services in Tennessee and various home visiting programs here in Hawaii to ensure young children get a healthy start. I began working for CPS in Tennessee when the twins were 18 months old so, they know all about safe and unsafe touch. I believe in the system and that we all just need to be there for our keiki. I talked with my girls everyday about school, hula, track, voice, and all of their interests. I was one of those moms that spent hours driving them to practices, watching all performances, hula mom for 10 years backstage, and on and on and on. I thought I was a great mom, and they knew they could come to me with anything and I would have them 100% and I could protect them from anybody who would ever hurt them. Our whole lives we knew we always had each other for any and all things. But they **could not and did not come to me** when they were being sexually abused. I thought many of nights during our healing if I just did this....if I just looked closer.... if I just listened better. BUT after all that it wasn't me and it wasn't them for not coming to me, it was the perpetrator for manipulating and preying on them and their vulnerabilities. You see, later the twins told me they could never tell me because they loved our family, our blended family of 3 step siblings of who they grew up with the last 10 years of their life. IF THEY ONLY HAD THAT ONE PERSON AT SCHOOL, THAT EXTRA SUPPORT OF TELLING SOMEONE IS OKAY, THAT EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF MOMMY KNOWING THAT THEY CAN GO TO THEM AND THEY WILL HELP THEM. It can give the next boy or girl the education and safe place to tell someone outside of their momma. Today by the grace of God, counseling for us all, love from our village, love for each other and my mantra to them of **what happens to us does NOT define us**, we continue to reach for our dreams in life, hashtag goals! The twins are awaiting to hear back from various med schools, my 15 year old is a free spirit and thriving in school and I am a proud and happy momma! I continue to work in the field and still believe in the people that also work in the

field. Please, please, please, – we need education and messaging that tells children of all ages, every year in school, **do not let anyone hurt you and tell someone**, tell your teacher, your counselor, your coach! I often wonder if they had known someone at school is their personal advocate, would they have reached out sooner, would their abuse have stopped sooner? Please I am urging you today to support Erin's law, which has been passed in 37 other states.

LATE

SB-518

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:53:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Tan	Testifying for Child & Family Service	Support	No

Comments:

Child & Family Service supports this bill as it will establish a sexual abuse prevention education program. CFS provides counseling and supportive services to children who have been sexually abused. The trauma and impact is great and has far reaching implications on each child we serve. We, as a community, should do everything we can to prevent sexual abuse.

LATE

SB-518

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:35:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nanci kreidman	Testifying for domestic violence action center	Support	No

Comments:

prevention is key for shifting direction. the incidence of child sex abuse is staggering. and family violence remains a secret, occurring behind closed doors. we must address this.

thank you for scheduling this Bill for Hearing.

love, nanci kreidman

Senator Muchelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
HB 576

DATE: Friday, February 3, 2021
TIME: 3:00 PM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 518

I am writing in firm support of SB 518. Preventative measures to lessen the frequency of childhood sexual assault is common sense legislation, and prioritizing children's safety as a monetary priority is absolutely crucial to showing our community that we put our keiki over our corporate/legislative interests. This bill requires the department of education to establish and implement a sexual abuse prevention education program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention, provide relevant training to teachers and staff, and inform parents and guardians about important child sexual abuse topics. These preventative measures, starting from the child and then engaging those who represent the child's community is imperative to child sexual abuse prevention, as 90% of these cases have perpetrators that the child knows, and early recognition and even better, *preventative measures to stop it before it happens*, can save lives.

I urge you to pass this simple, common sense legislation and reallocate funds to help protect our keiki and educate our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sidney Bandy