

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **1252**-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23, 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2114

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2114 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to update the Children's Justice Program to include the investigation and management of cases involving suspected or confirmed child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and child witnesses to crime or violence.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Department of the Attorney General; Department of Human Services; Department of Education; Honolulu Police Department; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawai'i; County of Kauai Victim/Witness Program; Hawaii State Bar Association; Child and Family Service, Hilo Office; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Parents and Children Together; Hawai'i Exploitation and Trafficking Unit; Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu; The Sex Abuse Treatment Center; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the Children's Justice Program was established to ensure a fair and neutral process for handling reports of alleged child sexual abuse that protects the rights of

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victims and alleged perpetrators. This measure would update statutory language to reflect the Program's existing priorities for cases involving child sex abuse, serious physical child abuse, child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and children who are witnesses to crime or violence.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2114 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,


MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



