

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, &
Homelessness

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

Re: H.B. 1700, Relating to Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments regarding H.B. 1700 for your consideration.

H.B. 1700 authorizes the Department of Human Services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Section 2 of this measure creates a general excise tax (GET) exemption for compensation received by a victim service provider for operating or managing a sex trafficking emergency shelter for minors. H.B. 1700 takes effect upon approval with Section 4 taking effect on July 1, 2022.

The Department respectfully requests that any changes to the GET be made effective on January 1, 2023. This will provide sufficient time to make the necessary form and computer system modifications.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &
HOMELESSNESS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1700

February 8, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1700: 1) amends Chapter 346, HRS, to authorize the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish or contract with a service provider to operate an emergency shelter for sex trafficking victims who are minors, set emergency shelter service and other operational requirements, and authorize county mayors to exempt the shelter from various county taxes and fees; 2) amends Chapter 237, HRS, to exempt compensation for operating or managing such an emergency shelter from the State's general excise tax; and 3) appropriates \$500,000 in general funds to DHS in FY 23 to establish or contract for the operation of such an emergency shelter.

B&F notes that the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act restricts states from using ARP Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation beginning on March 3, 2021, through the last day of the fiscal year in which the CSFRF have been spent. If a state cuts taxes during this

period, it must demonstrate how it paid for the tax cuts from sources other than the CSFRF, such as:

- By enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue;
- By cutting spending; or
- Through higher revenue due to economic growth.

If the CSFRF provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be repaid to the U.S. Treasury.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal ARP Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has issued rules governing how the ARP CSFRF tax cut offset restriction is to be administered, and the U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how the ESSER maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with both the ARP CSFRF use restriction and the ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Lianne Gillespie
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARK K. PATTERSON
ADMINISTRATOR

PHONE: (808) 266-9500
FAX: (808) 266-9506

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
42-470 KALANIANA'OLE HIGHWAY
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734

February 7, 2022

TO: Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair House
Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Mark Patterson, Administrator, Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility,
Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center

SUBJECT: HB 1700 RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.
State Capitol Room 329 & Videoconference

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility appreciates the intent of this measure, requests clarification, proposes an amendment. HYCF defers to the Departments of Human Services (DHS), Taxation, and county governments. HYCF respectfully requests that any general fund appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to authorize the Department of Human Services to establish an emergency shelter, via a purchase of service contract, for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation, in addition to establishing tax incentives to appropriate contract providers. Appropriates funds.

OYS/HYCF has been partnering with the Vera Institute of Justice's Initiative to End Girls' Incarceration since 2018. Hawaii was one of four sites selected to partner with EGI in this national initiative. Together, we've been working with government and community stakeholders to identify pathways into incarceration for girls and gender-expansive

youth and develop strategies to disrupt those pathways and build a continuum of community-based and community-led supports focused on safety, healing, and youth leadership.

A diagnostic assessment conducted by Vera highlighted sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation as both a major driver of girls' incarceration and a systemic gap across the state. Most girls entering the juvenile justice system are confined not because of concerns for public safety, but because of concerns for their safety. At Kawaihoa, we know from experience that many of the girls entering confinement have experienced sexual exploitation.

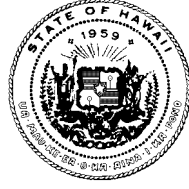
Lack of temporary and permanent housing continue to create challenges for the system to best support young people at risk of or confirmed CSEC.

We know that young people's involvement in trafficking varies and each young person requires individualized and unique interventions. Kawaihoa has been and can continue to be a site for innovation to pilot, test, and grow innovative non carceral responses that can provide the types of healing supports we know young people need.

The bill proposes a one-time appropriation of \$500,000, and OYS/HYCF requests clarification that the funds are to support the existing shelter program at KYFWC. While this will allow for youth victims to receive services on a temporary basis, additional funding and positions will be required to maintain these services over time. It costs approximately \$1.2million annually to run a fully operational shelter on Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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

February 6, 2022

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: HB 1700 – RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER.

HEARING: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 9:00 am
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill, offers comments, and defers to the Office of Youth Services (OYS). The department agrees with the testimony of the Office of Youth Services (OYS), and given the proposed one-time appropriation, these funds should go to OYS to support the existing emergency shelter services at the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC).

The department further defers to the Department of Taxation and the counties on relevant parts. Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to authorize the DHS to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. Provides for general excise tax and fee exemptions. Appropriates funds.

The department agrees that more resources are needed to support minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. However, due to this one-time funding situation, the proposed appropriation should be directed to OYS to support the existing

emergency shelter to maximize the use of the appropriation. Also, OYS and KYFWC already have statutory authority to establish crisis shelters, and DHS respectfully suggests placing the proposed additional language in the OYS chapter for clarity. If the Legislature would like to expand shelter capacity, future appropriations will be needed.

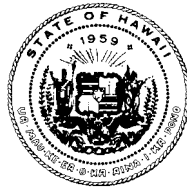
Currently, DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) protocol ensures that identified trafficked children and youth are assessed and receive appropriate services and protections, regardless of parental abuse or neglect. The department contracts a provider that delivers statewide victim-centered, trauma-informed 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 conducts training for DHS, resource caregivers, and the community that promotes public awareness of the sexual exploitation of children.

For youth in DHS foster custody, CWS currently uses its emergency shelters and current list of resource caregivers to place minor victims of sex trafficking. In addition, CWS also uses the Hale Kipa Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center (HLAC) at the KYFWC, which serves minors, ages 12 through 17, who are victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Since its opening, CWS has placed 70 youth in foster care at HLAC.

As to reporting requirements, CWS will work collaboratively with OYS to develop data sharing and data reporting to improve services for this population. Additional resources may be needed to conduct comprehensive reporting.

DHS continues its ongoing work to ensure these minor victims are identified and receive appropriate services.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 7, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1700 RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 9: 00 a.m.
State Capitol Room 329 & Videoconference

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) appreciates the intent of this measure, requests clarification, proposes an amendment. OYS defers to the Departments of Human Services (DHS), Taxation, and county governments. OYS respectfully requests that any general fund appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to authorize the Department of Human Services to establish an emergency shelter, via a purchase of service contract, for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation, in addition to establishing tax incentives to appropriate contract providers. Appropriates funds.

The OYS supports expanding the expansion of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) programs in order to meet its' current statutory requirements and the shelter and other needs of sex trafficked youth.

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services. Under section 352D-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Office of Youth Services, established to develop a central youth service center known as Kawaihoa Youth and

Family Wellness Center (KYFWC); paragraph (d) describes KYFWC services and programs to include a crisis shelter for victims of human and sex trafficking. As authorized, KYFWC currently has Hale Lanipolua, a contracted outreach and assessment emergency shelter for sex trafficked minors and youth on Oahu. This program is licensed as an 8-bed Child Caring Institution emergency shelter for eligible youth ages 12 to 17. Hale Lanipolua has not reached full capacity, nor has it turned down a youth in need. There are currently no similar existing emergency shelters on the neighbor islands.

To avoid duplication and provide clarity, OYS suggests an amendment to the proposed section 2, starting at page 3, line 10, to reference the existing OYS statute, section 352D-4(3), HRS, relating to community-based shelter residential facilities. Inclusion in OYS statutory authority will allow OYS to expand services within its current infrastructure and avoid duplication of services within DHS.

Hale Lanipolua was initially funded with federal Violence Against Women Act grant funds through December 31, 2021. Upon expiration of this grant, the City and County of Honolulu stepped in to continue this program. This County funding will end on June 30, 2022.

The bill proposes a one-time appropriation of \$500,000, and OYS requests clarification that the funds are to support the existing shelter program at KYFWC. While this will allow for youth victims to receive services on a temporary basis, additional funding and positions will be required to maintain these services over time. Depending on the variety of services offered, it costs approximately \$800,000 annually to run an emergency shelter on Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
Thirty-first State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai'i

February 8, 2022

RE: H.B. 1700; RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following comments, supporting the intent of H.B. 1700.

The Department strongly agrees that commercial sexual exploitation of children ("CSEC") is a dire problem in Hawaii, and the availability of safe, reliable housing for CSEC victims is a key component to stabilization and ultimate rehabilitation for these children. While the Department defers to the expertise of community-based service providers—such as The Pacific Survivor Center and Susannah Wesley Community Center—in terms of the efficacy or proper implementation of an emergency group shelter for CSEC victims, the Department also encourages the Committee to consider the benefits of putting significant resources toward developing more **therapeutic foster families (also known as resource families)**. To the extent child victims of commercial sexual exploitation are able to live with and learn from stable, caring, professionally trained families—while also receiving appropriate treatment and other services—the Department believes this significantly aids in their recovery. These programs are supported by the Department of Human Services, and to some extent by the Department of Health, through various providers such as Hale Kipa and Catholic Charities of Hawaii.¹

Although the Department's primary role is prosecution of criminal offenses, our overarching concern is the safety and welfare of the people of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

¹ See <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/home/child-welfare-services/foster-and-adoptive-care/>; <https://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/support/become-a-foster-family/>; and <https://www.halekipa.org/fosterparent/>.

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 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's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

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

February 4, 2022

To: Senator Ryan Yamane, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Health

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT OF HB 1700 RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports the intent of HB 1700 Relating to a Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter.

Providing emergency shelter, counseling and other related services to minors who are survivors of sex trafficking is a much-needed service.

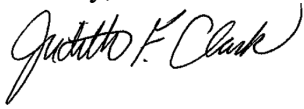
HYSN does not have data that supports the need for second emergency shelter for sex trafficking victims. The Lanipolua Assessment Center operated by Hale Kipa is rarely full to capacity and has never turned away an eligible youth.

The Lanipolua Assessment Center is operating with year-to-year funding. Current funding will expire in less than a year without any guarantee of renewal. Providing longer-term, stable funding for the Lanipolua Assessment Center is a more critical need than establishing a new shelter. If more beds are needed, adding capacity to an existing program is more cost-effective than starting a new one.

HYSN believes that the provision to exempt the provider of services from taxes is unnecessary. Non-profit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) status are already exempt from paying taxes on income received for services that are related to the organization's mission. Thus, the exemption from taxes is designed to benefit businesses that choose to operate a for-profit shelter. The primary purpose of a for-profit company is to generate profits for shareholders or owners. Decisions about policies and services may be based on what will generate the most profit rather than the best interests and needs of the clients. If the contract for the trafficking shelter is awarded to a for-profit company, that company should continue to pay its fair share of taxes rather than adding to the profits of a corporation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

TESTIMONY

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

RE: HB1700 to be heard on Tuesday February 8, at 9:00AM by video conference

Comments

To the House Committees on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

The Youth Outreach Program, that deals with street kids, could be doing this right now and with no tax subsidy, if it were not for state laws that prohibit them from providing overnight facilities. They are competent, with decades of firsthand experience. Why not ask their legal team to simply change the barrier laws.

The bill seems to have been written by persons with a limited and in some cases disputed understanding of the issues involved. An ASU/HSCSW study is referenced that has been widely criticized. UH Professors Meda Chesney-Lind and Nandita Sharma, wrote an editorial in the Star Advertiser outlining problems with this research.

Very Truly Yours:



Tracy Ryan
Executive Director

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 12:34:43 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports HB1700.

Mike Golojuch, Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:20:51 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 1700.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



HB 1700, RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 · HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. RYAN YAMANE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HB 1700, relating to the right to a sex trafficking emergency shelter, which authorizes the department of human services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

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.

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 authorization of the establishment of an emergency shelter under the auspices of the Hawai'i Department of Human Services. Our state only has one emergency shelter for child survivors of sexual exploitation (run by Hale Kipa), which temporarily shut down last year when

its VOCA funding stream was cancelled by the Office of the Attorney General. This bill would empower DHS to contract with a service provider for the facilitation of an emergency shelter, which would provide greater fiscal stability to ensure that this critical component of our state's continuum of care is not lost to financial disruptions. **We note that the cost to operate an emergency shelter is approximately \$40,000 per month, using Hale Kipa's numbers, which is less than \$500,000 per year.**

We also want to state that an emergency shelter is not the same thing as a residential treatment center, such as the treatment center operated by Ho'ōla Nā Pua. **Emergency shelters deliver crisis care to survivors within the first few days and weeks of their recovery, while residential treatment centers provide rehabilitative care for six months to a year for survivors whose recovery has already advanced beyond the stage of emergency care.** At a time of economic prosperity, we should ensure that survivors of sexual exploitation are given the resources that they need to heal.

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

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:49:02 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Ching, MD, MPH	American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter supports HB1700 which would authorize the Department of Human Services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. We urge you to pass this legislation to give our vulnerable keiki a safe option for escaping trafficking or exploitation. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 12:00:12 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pana Kia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Victims deserve a secure place to begin to heal. Please keep funding readily available for these services to be provided.

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 12:56:05 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Abigail Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a long-time resident of O‘ahu and i have observed how the problem of sex trafficking and homeless youth has increased a become more complex. I am writing to support SB 1700.

Children who are victims of sex trafficking are dealing with emotional trauma and PTSD. They need to feel safe in order to overcome these issues. If they are not provided with shelter, they are likely to be victimized again and again.

Underaged children need to be housed separately from adults, since adults are responsible for their victimization. If we hope to have these young people return to be successful citizens, we must provide them with adequate housing and a safe place to move on.

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 7:03:46 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

WHY is this bill completely devoid of any language or urgency to reunite these trafficked minor children with their parent/s? Shouldn't "identification of & reunification with family" immediately follow "housing" in the Emergency Services offered and be the first priority after health & safety are secured? I would include the "identification of and reunification with family members" as a primary service otherwise holding these children captive to rehabilitate them only looks slightly better than the fate they just escaped.

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 7:55:09 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1700.

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:09:20 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 11:23:33 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deseree Tano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

From: Deseree Tano

Hearing Date: February 8, 2022

RE: HB 1700 RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Position: Support

My name is Deseree Tano and an Master of Social Work student. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of House Bill 1700, relating to a sex trafficking emergency shelter.

Sex trafficking is a community problem. With 23% reported that they were children when they were first sex trafficked and with 64% of sex victims identified as being Native Hawaiian, more needs to be done to provide services and support to victims. Through the emergency shelter services of rehabilitation, medical, mental health, and therapeutic services, victims will find hope and healing and build the confidence to reintergrate back into the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1700.

Deseree Tano

Dear Legislature,

My name is Zhizi Xiong and I fully support HB 1700. I was trafficked from the ages of 18-25 in 2009-2015. Although I was not exactly a minor when I started in the industry, I was very close to being a minor. Based on my personal experience, if there had been emergency shelters that I had known about, it would've saved my life.

Last year in 2021, I had the opportunity to help a victim of human trafficking who was very young. She had got into a physical altercation with her "boyfriend". Law enforcement got involved and legal proceedings happened. I was one of the witnesses who had seen her get abused by her "boyfriend". I videotaped the encounter and upon request by the victim's attorney, was able to provide witness statements and evidence to the court. It was fairly easy to navigate HPD and the courts, but it was extremely difficult to navigate the human trafficking service provider I contacted.

While we were on scene during the physical altercation as HPD was called, I called the crisis line for a sex trafficking service provider. I'm a client of theirs and had thought there would be emergency services and emergency shelter for the victim. Unfortunately, those services do not exist. Had those services existed, it would've helped the victim immensely, especially as she was getting questioned about her innocence.

As I spoke to the crisis line, I was not given clear instructions or a clear list of services. However, they were able to give brief instructions for getting into contact with Legal Aid. I am grateful for the service provider but from that experience and past experiences, it can be concluded indisputably that their services needs to be significantly improved to be able to provide quality care to its victims. This service provider is funded by legislative grants and therefore, it would be in the interest of the legislature to create statutes pertaining to the establishment of well-developed and structured trafficking initiatives in regards to services for minors and all victims of sex trafficking.

It would be in the fiscal interest of the legislature to fund initiatives and training programs for sex trafficking service providers that employs a team of trained legal, medical, mental health and compassionate trauma-informed care professionals for emergency human trafficking situations. When the victim got physically abused and was being questioned because she defended herself, she got arrested and the abuser, her "boyfriend" did not. Had there been an emergency service provider there familiar with trafficking and domestic abuse, they would have been able to spot the signs and speak on her behalf. The emergency service provider would have also made sure she got treated for her bleeding wounds and intoxication instead of being arrested by HPD. Also, in most instances, trafficking involves legalities, like this situation, so if the emergency service provider had been on scene and was familiar with navigating legal procedures, the girl could have been helped. Unfortunately, because no service provider was there who could professionally speak on her behalf, she was deemed guilty for domestic abuse and then arrested.

Thank you legislature for your consideration of this testimony.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of human services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Human Trafficking Sources

<https://www.nealdavislaw.com/criminal-defense-guides/human-trafficking-statistics.html> (by state statistics)

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:38:49 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elladine U.A.Olevao	Child Welfare Services	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony has been submitted and will be available for comments.

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:24:06 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah-Lyn Kaeo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and fellow members of the HHH committee.

I support this bill as it will create a safe haven for minors who are victims of sex trafficking and/or sex exploitation. Sex trafficking is a severe crisis in Hawaii, and I believe this matter should be aided by DHS with a contract emergency shelter program. Thank you for the opportunity for me to testify.

Sarah-Lyn Kaeo

Bill: House Bill 1700
Title: RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER.
Position: SUPPORT
Committee: Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Date: February 8, 2022 9:00 am

Aloha Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Committee Members,

My name is Vickie Parker Kam and I am writing to you in support of HB1700 which authorizes the department of human services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

As a public education teacher, I advocate for those without the ability to speak for themselves to get a safe place to process and begin to heal. This bill, HB1700, would be a solid first step to address this issue.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Vickie Parker Ka

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:53:25 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Richard Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 1700.

Mahalo,

Richard

HB-1700

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:02:22 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kam, and Members of the Health, Human Services, and Homeless Committee,

My name is Cyd L. Hoffeld from Hilo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1700**. Providing a safe emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation is the least we can do for the harm perpetrated on our youth. I hope through this bill that emergency shelters will be established on each island because sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors is happening on Hawai'i Island too. Placing a minor in an HPD holding cell or sending them to a youth detention center are not the appropriate places to hold traumatized victims of sexual abuse until they can be shipped off to O'ahu. Protecting and caring for our youth by contracting with organizations like Ho'ola Na Pua so they can increase their service locations to neighbor islands is imperative.

We can do more and should do more by creating a pathway for safe havens to exist and expand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of **HB1700**.

Cyd

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Ryan I. Yamane

Representative Adrian K. Tam

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 0900 HST

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1700 Relating to a Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

Aloha Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and the members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness:

Mahalo for hearing HB1700 relating to a sex trafficking emergency shelter. I am writing in **strong support** of HB1700.

I believe that appropriating funds for an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation is a crucial first step necessary to provide the victims with a safe exit. No child is immune to becoming a victim of sex trafficking. Every parent knows that no matter how much they love and protect their child, there are still threats of harm that exist in the world.

Although some victims are reunited with their caregivers upon rescue, a majority of child sex trafficking victims hail from less-than-ideal environments including homelessness that leave them especially vulnerable. In some cases, the child is trafficked by their own caregivers. In either case, an emergency shelter that is specialized in trauma-informed care for child sex trafficking victims will help to minimize further harm until a caregiver can be contacted or arranged for.

Additionally, there is a strong correlation between homelessness and child sex trafficking. The increasing cost of living is leaving families more susceptible to homelessness; therefore, one can anticipate an inevitable increase in child sex trafficking, and a need for shelters to protect and safeguard the keiki at the very least. For this reason, I strongly reaffirm my **support** for HB1700.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Soon Kim

House District 32