



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i
Testimony to the Thirty-First State Legislature, 2021 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:55 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

by
Christine E. Kuriyama
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 722, H.D.2, S.D.1, Relating to Human Trafficking

Purpose: Establishes a statewide coordinator and program overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. Requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature. Requires the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Effective 1/1/2022. (SD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports H.B. No. 722, H.D.2, S.D.1 and appreciates the legislature's recognition that the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a serious problem here in Hawai'i and throughout the United States.



The Judiciary supports this bill for the following reasons:

1. The commercial sexual exploitation of our children has become more prevalent in cases before the Family Court. Youth involved in the foster care system are especially vulnerable to become involved in sex trafficking. These issues also arise on the Family Court calendar in juvenile, domestic violence, child abuse, and other calendars.
2. This bill provides for a dedicated statewide coordinator within the Department of the Attorney General who could devote their full energy and time to work with stakeholder agencies and non-profits, to develop a comprehensive plan for law enforcement, prevention, and to assist victims of human trafficking. A coordinated and collaborative approach is essential to be able to combat the sexual exploitation of children.
3. This bill provides for a comprehensive plan for public awareness and training on prevention and identification of victims. Being aware of the indicators of human trafficking/sexual exploitation, and knowing what to do, is the first step to assisting victims.
4. This bill provides for an analysis of the existing data specific to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). This data piece is critical to understand the true breadth and scope of the problem in the State of Hawai'i. Only with accurate data are we able to properly pursue needed funding and allocate resources to effectively respond.
5. This bill provides for the Department of the Attorney General to prepare a comprehensive report to the legislature prior to the 2022 session on the State's efforts to address CSEC. This will be a significant step in gathering and analyzing information on the State's efforts thus far in addressing CSEC. Much work has already been put forth while there is so much more to accomplish. Having a comprehensive report with the components stated in the bill will provide a detailed inventory of resources, outlined best practices, and recommendations for moving forward.
6. This bill amends HRS Chapter 588, relating to the Children's Justice Program, to include human trafficking and cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

April 2, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 722 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Hearing: April 6, 2021, 9:55 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

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

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

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

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

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

- a report on the State's efforts to address human trafficking no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023;
- (2) Permitting the Department of the Attorney General to submit additional reports to the Legislature at the determination of the Department; and
 - (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The House Committee on Finance passed the measure unamended.

The Senate Committee on Human Services amended the measure by:

- (1) Reinserting the requirement that the Department of the Attorney General establish a statewide coordinator and program within the Department to address the needs of victims of human trafficking;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2022; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

PURPOSE: Establishes a statewide coordinator and program overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. Requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature. Requires the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Effective 1/1/2022. (SD1)

Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2017, brought Hawaii's law into compliance with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010 (CAPTA). Act 16, SLH 2017, amongst other things, amended section 350-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add "severe forms of trafficking in persons" and "sex trafficking" to Hawaii's definition of "child abuse and neglect."

The DHS works to ensure that sex trafficked children and youth are identified and receive appropriate services and protections; regardless of parental abuse or neglect. DHS has a contracted provider that provides victim centered, trauma-informed comprehensive services that are individualized and responsive to the needs, values, culture, and gender identity statewide for minor victims of all forms of human trafficking. The provider also promotes

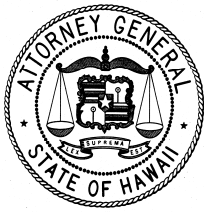
April 2, 2021

Page 3

public awareness of sexual exploitation of children through trainings for the community, for DHS staff, and DHS resource caregivers.

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

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



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 **TIME:** 9:55 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211, Via Videoconference

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

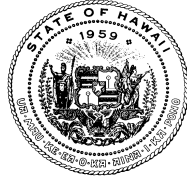
Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) strongly supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to create a human trafficking program and a statewide coordinator position within the Department to address the needs of victims of human trafficking, including a requirement to submit reports to the Legislature on the State's efforts to address human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children. The bill also requires the Children's Justice Program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child trafficking cases, including those that involve the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

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

This issue is a priority for the Department, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB722 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 4/6/2021

Hearing Time: 9:55 A.M.

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

3 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure intersects with the scope of the
4 Department’s Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a
5 comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public,
6 private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying
7 out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and
8 person-centered.

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

1 combating human trafficking, we also believe that greater synchronization is necessary to
2 maximize resources and formally institute practices statewide.

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

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

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 KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

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

April 6, 2021

RE: H.B. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1; RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

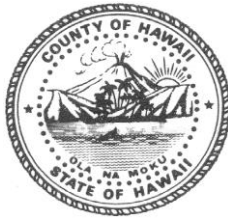
The Department strongly agrees that commercial sexual exploitation of children ("CSEC"), and human trafficking as a whole, is a dire problem in Hawaii, which could be better addressed by increased coordination among our State's various agencies. By establishing a single, statewide program under the Department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

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

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

STEPHEN L. FRYE
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 722 HD2 SD1

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Joy Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran., Vice Chair

Honorable Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Honorable Vice Chairs Keohokalole & Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Committee on Ways and Means, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 722 HD2 SD1.

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

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

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

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

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i, Supports the passage of House Bill No. 722 HD2 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB722 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING
K Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

‘Apelila 6, 2021

9:55 a.m.

Lumi 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB722 HD2 SD1, which would require the the Attorney General’s office to establish a statewide coordinator and program to address the needs of victims of human trafficking and to develop a plan to provide increased support and assistance to victims of human trafficking and victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Attorney General’s office would also be required to implement statewide strategies, promote awareness of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, and develop comprehensive training regarding such matters. **The statewide program proposed by this measure would facilitate the protection of Native Hawaiian children who may be at greater risk of being sexually exploited, including through human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.**

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

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

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

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

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

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** HB722 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

DATE/LOCATION: April 6, 2021; 9:55 a.m., Conference Room 211/Video Conference

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 722 HD 2 SD 1 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We ask you to support HB 722 HD 2 SD 1 which establishes a statewide coordinator and program overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking, requires the attorney general to submit annual reports to the legislature, and requires the children's justice program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Youth who are sexually exploited experience indelible trauma. We thank the Department of the Attorney General for making the issue of trafficking a priority, wholeheartedly support the coordination of these efforts through the Department and appreciate the adoption of the suggested amendments to restore the statewide coordinator position, which strengthens the bill. Human trafficking, particularly the sexual exploitation of children, rips away at the very fabric of our communities. Creating a program and coordinator within the department, as well as coordinating efforts, is critical to effectively addressing this issue.

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 **HB 722 HD 2 SD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

HB-722-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 4:52:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/6/2021 9:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

Please listen to those folks who have actively been engaged in working with these issues. Imua Alliance and Harm reduction are two that should be heard. Another office with more bureaucracy is not what is needed.

HB-722-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 8:38:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/6/2021 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Gordon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

Please Do Not Approve HB 722

Although we do not agree with any human trafficking, we have not observed this issue being prevalent at least on Hawaii Island.

Given the current dire financial state of the State as well as the Counties, it is suggested at this time not to enact this Bill due to the increase in funding needed for a State Coordinator, as well as the other associated expenses, such as reporting, etc.

It is better at this time, to use State funds for unemployment benefits, funds to assist low income families, much needed public work projects and other projects to help restore the economy.

Thanks for allowing me to share my comments and observations.

Please Do Not Approve HB 722

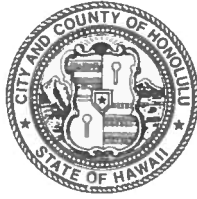
Mark Gordon

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE PJ-GK

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Human Trafficking

I am Major Phillip Johnson of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD supports House Bill No. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Human Trafficking.

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

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 722, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Human Trafficking. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Handwritten signature of Phillip Johnson in black ink.

Phillip Johnson, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

LATE



HB 722, HD 2, SD 1, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

APRIL 6, 2021 · SENATE JUDICIARY AND WAYS
AND MEANS COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. KARL
RHOADS AND SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

POSITION: Support with amendments.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports and suggests amendments for HB 722, HD 2, SD 1, relating to human trafficking, which establishes a statewide coordinator and program overseen by the Department of the Attorney General to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking; requires the Attorney General to submit annual reports to the Legislature; and requires the Children's Justice Program to coordinate the investigation and case management of child human trafficking cases, including cases involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Imua Alliance is one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention (victim rescue) services to 150 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims and individuals at risk of sexual exploitation. During the pandemic, demand for victim services to our organization has skyrocketed by 330 percent, driven in part by a fivefold increase in direct crisis calls from potential trafficking victims.

Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal

behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily trauma bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name. Yet, sadly, many of the victims with whom we work are misidentified as so-called "voluntary prostitutes" and are subsequently arrested and incarcerated, with no financial resources from which to pay for their release.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. At least 23 percent of trafficking victims in Hawai'i report being first exploited before turning 18, according to a recent report, with the average age of trafficked keiki's initial exposure to exploitation being 11. Based on regular outreach and monitoring, we estimate that approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments operate in Hawai'i. In a recent report conducted by the State Commission on the Status of Women, researchers from Arizona State University found that 1 in every 11 adult males living in our state buys sex online. When visitors are also counted, that number worsens to 1 in every 7 men walking the streets of our island home and a daily online sex buyer market of 18,614 for O'ahu and a total sex buyer population for the island of 74,362, including both tourists and residents.

ASU's findings are grim, but not surprising to local organizations that provide services to survivors of sex trafficking. Imua Alliance, for example, has trained volunteers to perform outreach to victims in high-risk locations, like strip clubs, massage parlors, and hostess bars. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home. With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence. As one underage survivor told Imua Alliance prior to being rescued, "I can't be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I'm a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it."

Accordingly, we support efforts to advance our state's ability to stop sexual slavery and strengthen statewide services coordination to deliver trauma-informed care to child victims of sex trafficking, but believe that service providers should be consulted to most effectively accomplish those goals. As indicated above, sex trafficking victims are typically

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

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

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