



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

Date: 03/17/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1347, SD1 RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, school-based behavioral health specialists, security, custodial, and support staff on sex trafficking prevention and response. Takes effect 7/30/2075. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 1347, SD1 and is a staunch advocate of preventing sexual exploitation and sex trafficking through our work with state partners and community organizations. As the Department already provides training and resources for sex trafficking prevention and response, we do not feel that legislation is necessary at this time.

The purpose of the bill is aligned with the Department's existing efforts to disseminate information about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention and provide training that supports the health and welfare of all students.

Currently, the Department collaborates with the Susannah Wesley Community Center, Pacific Survivor Center, and Ho Ola Na Pua to deliver sex trafficking prevention and response education, resources, activities, strategies and workshops to students, faculty, complex area staff, and school communities. Commercially Sexually Exploited Children training/programming has been delivered at numerous middle/intermediate and high schools, complex areas, and district offices throughout the state with the goal of delivering training and programming to all middle/intermediate and high schools. Although in-person program delivery has been disrupted as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic, virtual programming continues to grow and in-person training

will resume.

The Hawaii State Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Program Development Office offers training to Department schools regarding mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse in addition to the Department's mandatory reporter training at the beginning of each school year.

The Department participates in the Sexual Violence Prevention working group, a public/private sector group of community and child-serving organizations, which is convened to discuss issues around sexual violence prevention in Department school communities. This group includes membership from the following organizations:

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

These agencies offer developmentally appropriate sexual violence prevention resources which may include information, counseling, consultation services, educational sessions, training and workshops for students, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Department staff, and the community. The working group developed an online resource repository, "Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Schools," that is easily accessible and houses sexual violence prevention resources and supports for schools and school communities (<https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/hidoe-svp>).

The Department is also a member of the Hawaii State Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee, Interagency Advisory Council, The Hawaii Children's Trust Fund, and numerous other groups focused on child safety. The Department remains committed to its ongoing collaborative partnerships to provide sex trafficking prevention and response training to employees and does not feel legislation is necessary to accomplish this goal.

With the restoration of the funding for positions and basic services that were reduced for fiscal year 2023 due to the impact of COVID-19 and the stabilization of funding, the Department will continue to enhance its work in ensuring the safety and well-being of all students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony 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

March 16, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB1347 SD1 – RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.**

Hearing: March 17, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Education.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, school-based behavioral health specialists, security, custodial, and support staff on sex trafficking prevention and response. Takes effect 7/30/2075.
(SD1) The SD1 amended the measure by,

- (1) Clarifying that school-based personnel including security, custodial, and support staff shall also receive training on sex trafficking prevention and response;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 30, 2075, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, revised Hawaii's child abuse definition to include cases of sex trafficking and trafficking in persons as required by the federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-22). From 6/9/2017 – 3/31/2021, DHS received 318 reports of trafficking. The majority of the human trafficking cases reported to CWS are on Oahu. The average age of the human trafficking victim is 16, and 93% of the victims are female.

DHS supports efforts to increase trafficking education and training. DHS will work with the Department of Education and community providers to continue training and outreach efforts. Since May 2017, DHS co-chaired the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Committee with the Family Court of the First Circuit. In collaboration, members have increased training in identifying and reporting suspected trafficking. With training and improved communication, DHS and community partners successfully recovered trafficking victims with state and federal law enforcement.

During these pandemic years, DHS conducted virtual training. With additional resources, DHS will work with partners to develop on-demand training content.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



SENATE BILL 1347, SD 1, RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

MARCH 17, 2022 · HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
· CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports SB 1347, SD 1**, relating to sex trafficking prevention, which requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, school-based behavioral health specialists, security, custodial, and support staff on sex trafficking prevention and response.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SB 1347, SD 1, RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

MARCH 17, 2022 · HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
· CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Strong support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **strongly supports SB 1347, SD 1**, relating to sex trafficking prevention, which requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, school-based behavioral health specialists, security, custodial, and support staff on sex trafficking prevention and response.

Imua Alliance is one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention (victim rescue) services to 160 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims and individuals at risk of sexual exploitation. **During the pandemic, demand for victim services to our organization has skyrocketed by 330 percent, driven in part by a fivefold increase in direct crisis calls from potential trafficking victims.**

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

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

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

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

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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



— H a w a i i —
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: House Committees on Education and on Water & Land

Re: **SB 1347, SD1 - Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention**
Hawai'i State Capitol, via Videoconference, Conference Room 309
March 17, 2022, 2:00 PM

Dear Chairs Woodson and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Kapela and Branco, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 1347, SD1, relating to sex trafficking prevention. This bill would require the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists, security, custodial, and support staff on sex trafficking prevention and response.

At the most recent Hawaii Children and Youth Summit,¹ the participating youth from across the state proposed and chose training for teachers and school personnel on sex trafficking prevention as one of their top five recommendations for legislative action in 2022.

During the summit, the youth expressed their concerns that they are targeted for recruitment into sexual exploitation, and that they are often enticed with false promises or through family members.

School personnel are among the mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect in Hawaii,² but they need training to recognize signs of sexual trafficking and learn how to respond appropriately. That's why this bill is needed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.hawaiiicys.org/>

² <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/files/2021/03/GUIDE-FOR-MANDATED-REPORTERS-Rev.-12-2-2020-new-logo-final0021.pdf>



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Osa Tui, Jr.
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Wilbert Holck
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 1347, SD1 - RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 1347, SD1**, relating to sex trafficking prevention. This bill requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

March 16, 2022

To: Senator Justin Woodson, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1347 SD 1 RELATED TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, support SB 1347 SD 1 Related to Sex Trafficking Prevention.

At the 2022, Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, training for teachers on sex trafficking prevention and recognition was one of the top five recommendations for legislative action.

Youth and young adults are targeted for recruitment into sexual exploitation, including prostitution, exotic massage, erotic dancing, and more. Young people are enticed with through seduction, promises of easy work for big pay, and even sold to pimps by family members.

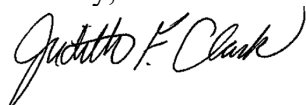
When children and youth have problems, teachers and other school personnel are often the trusted adults to whom they turn for help. School personnel are the number one reporters of child abuse and neglect according to the Hawaii Dept. of Human Services.

Teachers need training to recognize signs of sexual exploitation and know how to respond appropriately.

Please honor the voice of Hawaii's youth by addressing their concerns about sex trafficking.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-1347-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:58:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Underwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 17, 2022

To:

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair,

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, and

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Brent Underwood

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 1347 SD1, relating to sex trafficking prevention

I am writing to you on behalf of SB1347 SD1 and strongly ask for your support of this bill.

Sex trafficking is a horrible crime that plagues many places in America. Many children that are in sex trafficking still go to school. School is the only time that a child can be away from the sex trafficker. If teachers or other school staff are trained to recognize the signs, they could help the child be free from trafficking. Once a teacher has gotten through to a child, they will be able to find the trafficker that was abusing the child. The trafficker could then be arrested and the child would be free. I request that an amendment be made to this

bill. Teachers should be able to use their training to teach students in their classrooms about the dangers of sex trafficking.

Thank you for your time and consideration of SB1347 SD1, relating to sex trafficking prevention.