



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature  
2022 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Finance**  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, April 4, 2022, 2:30 p.m. – Agenda #2  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

by  
Jasmine Mau-Mukai  
Statewide Director, Children’s Justice Centers of Hawai‘i

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 2114, Relating to Children’s Justice Program.

**Purpose:** Updates the purpose of the Children’s Justice Program to include investigation and management of cases involving suspected or confirmed child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and child witnesses to crime or violence. Makes conforming amendments.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Hawai‘i State Judiciary is in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2114, Relating to the Children’s Justice Program.

The Children's Justice Program was established within the Hawai‘i State Judiciary to ensure a fair and neutral process for the handling of reports of alleged child sexual abuse that protects the rights of both victims and alleged perpetrators. The Program operates children's justice centers, ("The Children's Justice Center," "CJC," or "Center"), statewide, where specially-trained professionals conduct forensic interviews of child victims and witnesses in a safe and neutral setting.

Since its establishment, CJC's operations have expanded to include cases involving child abuse or neglect, generally, and child witnesses. Its current priorities are for cases involving: (1) sexual abuse of a child; (2) serious physical child abuse; (3) child sex trafficking/commercial



Senate Bill No. 2114, Relating to the Children's Justice Program  
House Committee on Finance  
Monday, April 4, 2022  
Page 2

sexual exploitation of children; (4) other child maltreatment; and (5) children who are witnesses to crime or violence. This bill proposes amendments to reflect these updated priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

**Date:** 04/04/2022

**Time:** 02:30 PM

**Location:** 308 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2114 RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Updates the purpose of the children's justice program to include investigation and management of cases involving suspected or confirmed child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and child witnesses to crime or violence. Makes conforming amendments.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2114. The Department recognizes the importance of awareness, prevention, and the provision of services to victims of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and is already committed to delivering training/programming to middle/intermediate and high school students and faculty. As such, the Department supports agencies such as the Children's Justice Centers of Hawaii who specialize in investigations and management of cases involving child victims.

The Department acknowledges the work of the Children's Justice Centers of Hawaii and other government and non-profit agencies as critical in addressing the sexual abuse continuum in Hawaii.

The Department currently collaborates and consults with the Children's Justice Centers of Hawaii and views the expansion of their scope of services to include child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other forms of child maltreatment as essential in our continued work toward increased child safety in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2114, RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Monday, April 04, 2022

**TIME:** 2:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Holly T. Shikada, Attorney General, or  
Farshad M. Talebi, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

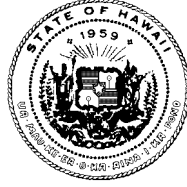
The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill.

This bill would update the purpose of the children's justice program to include supporting suspected or confirmed child witnesses to crime or violence, as well as supporting the interagency investigation and management of cases involving victims of suspected or confirmed child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other child maltreatment.

The children's justice program currently plays a vital role in providing support for the special needs of child victims and witnesses of child sex abuse and serious physical child abuse. The bill recognizes that victims of child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other child maltreatment and child witnesses to crime or violence are also vulnerable and experience various forms of complex trauma, and would benefit from the support of the children's justice program. Expanding the purpose of the program to include these additional victim populations aligns with the mission of the children's justice program and will help reduce and prevent unnecessary trauma while ensuring justice for children and their families.

The Department respectfully asks the Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 1, 2022

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Cathy Betts, Director

**SUBJECT: SB 2114 – RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM.**

**HEARING:** April 4, 2022, 2:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

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

The continued collaboration with the Judiciary's Children's Justice Centers (CJC) is crucial for DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) to ensure children's well-being and safety. CWS has a working agreement with the Children's Justice Program to conduct joint interviews whenever possible at the CJC in cases of intrafamilial child sex abuse, sexual exploitation of a child, and serious physical child abuse. The purposes of this coordinated investigative interview are to ensure that the child is seen and assessed in a timely manner, in a child-friendly environment, by a trained team member who will gather the necessary information and minimize the number of interviews the child undergoes to reduce any re-traumatization of the child while involved in the child welfare and or criminal justice systems.

CWS protocols are currently in place to ensure that child victims of sex trafficking, commercial sex exploitation, and child abuse or neglect are immediately identified, assessed, and provided with appropriate services and protections, regardless of parental abuse or neglect. In addition, DHS has a contracted provider that provides statewide victim-centered, trauma-informed, comprehensive services that are individualized and responsive to the needs, values, culture, and gender identity of child victims of all forms of human trafficking.

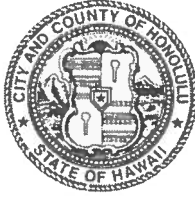
The CJs, located statewide, also coordinate multidisciplinary team meetings; DHS and its contracted provider participate in these team meetings. The primary purposes of these meetings are to discuss case planning and implementation of coordinated services for the child victims of sex trafficking and serious physical child abuse cases.

The updated priorities of the Children's Justice Program to include all types of child abuse and neglect will ensure that the CJs are authorized to provide the same services to all child victims who are subject to harm or threatened harm, with priority given to sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child, serious physical child abuse, child trafficking, and cases involving child witnesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

RADE K. VANIC  
INTERIM CHIEF

OUR REFERENCE **BN-KK**

April 4, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2114, Relating to the Children's Justice Program

I am Brandon Nakasato, Major of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The health, safety, and well-being of Hawaii's keiki who are victims or witnesses of any crime or violence continues to be a priority for the HPD and all collaborating partners participating in this program. The HPD supports the proposed amendments to the purpose of the Children's Justice Program to include all child victims or witnesses of all types of cases, suspected or confirmed.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2114, Relating to the Children's Justice Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rade K. Vanic in black ink.

Rade K. Vanic  
Interim Chief of Police

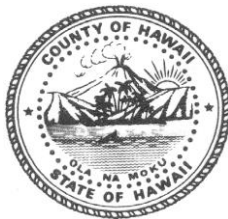
Handwritten signature of Brandon Nakasato in black ink.

Brandon Nakasato, Major  
Criminal Investigation Division



**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**STEPHEN L. FRYE**  
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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2114**

#### **A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, April 4, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference &  
State Capitol Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2114.

This Bill amends the Children's Justice Program's statute, HRS 588 to include definitions of sexual exploitation, serious physical abuse, child witnesses to crime and child trafficking.

Hawai'i's Children's Justice Centers bring together a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who coordinate responses to child abuse and neglect and assist child victims and witnesses of crime by providing specially-trained professionals who conduct forensic interviews in a warm, home-like setting where children feel comfortable and safe. Since its inception, the Children's Justice Centers have expanded its services and this measure intends to reflect their updated priorities in include all types of child abuse and neglect.

As a partner agency of the Children's Justice Centers, we work in collaboration to meet the special needs of our children. This amendment is necessary to ensure that these services and assistance is provided to all child victims or witnesses to crime, suspected or confirmed.

The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney remains committed to the pursuit of justice with integrity and commitment. For the foregoing reasons, the, County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney Supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 2114.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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STEVEN S. ALM  
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THOMAS J. BRADY  
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**THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**Thirty-First State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2022**  
**State of Hawai'i**

April 4, 2022

**RE: S.B. 2114; RELATING TO THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM.**

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2114.

The Department greatly appreciates the support of The Children's Justice Center ("CJC"), in its work to ensure that child victims (and child witnesses) of sexual abuse, physical abuse, sex trafficking and other such crimes are dealt with in an age-appropriate and trauma-informed manner. The Department agrees that the full scope of the CJC's work should be reflected in its authorizing statutes.

Because the criminal justice system can be very difficult for *any* victim of crime to navigate or understand, children who are victims of violent crime generally fare better in this process when they are able to work with professionals—such as those at the CJC—who are specially trained to elicit accurate and informative responses without re-traumatizing the child. Children as a whole are one of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations, and the Department strongly supports the continued use of services that are specifically designed to aid child victims of crime.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of S.B. 2114. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai'i Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit**

April 1, 2022

**SUBJECT: SB2114 Relating to the Children's Justice Program**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members:

We are submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB2114. This bill appropriately expands the program's jurisdiction into suspected or confirmed cases of child sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, other child maltreatment, and child witnesses to crime or violence.

The Hawai'i Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit was started by Hawai'i County Councilmember Matt Kāneali'i-Kleinfelder and is attended by community organizations and government representatives concerned with sex trafficking.

The Children's Justice Center has been actively involved with our unit's work to deploy services more effectively to victims of exploitation and trafficking. If passed, this bill would reflect the wide variety of crimes against children that the Children's Justice Center multidisciplinary teams are already working on.

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

Mahalo,

**Matt Kāneali'i-Kleinfelder**

Councilmember  
Hawai'i County District 5

**Rachelle Agrigado**

Center Chief  
East and West Hawai'i Family Guidance Centers,  
State of Hawai'i Department of Health

**Quiana Anastasio**

Hawai'i Island Coalition Against  
Human Trafficking

**Esau Fualema**

Hawai'i Island Coalition Against  
Human Trafficking

**Evelyn "Kahea" Lee**

Director  
Special Projects & Community Collaborative  
E Hiki Mai Ana (NEXT) LLC

**Camille Maluo**

Liaison  
Hawai'i Exploitation and Trafficking Unit

**Milleno Mavaega**

Hawai'i Island Coalition Against  
Human Trafficking

**Rosalina Mavaega**

Hawai'i Island Coalition Against  
Human Trafficking

**Melody Stone**

Hawai'i Island Coalition Against  
Human Trafficking

**Rebecca Villegas**

Councilmember  
Hawai'i County District 7

**St. Michael the Archangel Church**

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i



**TESTIMONY**  
House Committee on Finance  
**Hearing: Monday, April 4, 2022 (2:30 p.m.)**

**TO:** The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Rhonda L. Griswold  
HSBA President-elect

**RE:** Senate Bill No. 2114  
Relating to the Children’s Justice Program

The innovative and collaborative Children’s Justice Program was originally established as a fair and neutral initiative designed to assist in the handling of alleged child abuse cases. The Program utilizes specially trained professionals to conduct forensic interviews of child abuse victims and witnesses in a safe non-threatening environment.

This bill proposes to expand the Children’s Justice Program to also include victims of child sex trafficking, child commercial sexual exploitation, and child witnesses to crime or violence. The proposed expansion is consistent with the Program’s original goals, philosophies, and methodologies.

The Hawaii State Bar Association **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2114 and urges its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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Date: April 4, 2022

To: Rep. Mark Nakashima, Chair  
Rep. Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

From: Lynn Costales Matsuoka, Associate Director  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2114  
Relating to the Children's Justice Center

Hearing: April 4, 2022, 2:30 PM

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Good Morning Chair Luke and Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) is in support of SB 2114, Relating to the Children's Justice Center.

The Children's Justice Center (CJC) has long been a leader in managing the interagency and inter professional coordination and cooperation between agencies who handle the treatment, identification, and investigation (civil and criminal) of child abuse both physical and sexual. Over the course of many years it has established professional relationships with government and non-government agencies that respond to child abuse.

The proposed legislation in SB 2114 is a natural extension of the statutory purview of the CJC in developing and coordinating a seamless system response to child abuse, to include child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The SATC supports the continued work of the CJC and supports SB 2114. Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-2114**

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 10:02:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diana Gausepohl-White	County of Kauai Victim/Witness Program	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2114 which expands the types of victimization of children who will receive assistance at the Children's Justice Center. Our two agencies have a well established relationship and collaborate effectively in serving child victims and witnesses.

I respectfully ask that your Committee PASS the Bill. Thank you for your time in this matter.

**SB-2114**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 11:07:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support.