

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 27, 2022

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

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3347 SD1 – RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE.**

HEARING: Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, offers comments, and requests clarification.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this measure establishes a 1-year pilot program within the Department of Human Services to provide a basic monthly income of \$2,000 for up to 1 year, to qualified persons who are verified victims of sex trafficking, or who are female or sexual and gender minority individuals seeking to exit the sex trade. Requires report to the Legislature before Regular Session of 2023. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1).

SD1 further amended this measure by:

- 1) Amending sections 1 and 2 to reflect its amended purpose;
- 2) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- 3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Communities across California and Canada have initiated successful universal or guaranteed basic income initiatives. For example, the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) showed positive findings of the 125 randomly selected participants that received \$500 per month. Research of 1-year data from SEED participants showed increased full-time employment and improvements in their financial, physical, and emotional health. Notably, the SEED program was privately funded and implemented by a nonprofit. Basic income programs tend to limit the number of participants; some have application processes, require proof of residency, and set participant income limits. Additionally, programs differ in whether the amount should cover all monthly expenses "universal basic income," or whether the amount is a supplement or floor – described as "guaranteed" income. Also, other programs target low-income populations versus a specific group.

The Department is currently not aware of initiatives that address supporting victims exiting the sex trade, and it does not regularly take the lead role in exploratory research.

The Department recognizes that economic viability is a strong preventive factor against recidivism to being sex trafficked. Women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are exploited at higher rates than others, and DHS notes that men and boys, heterosexual and otherwise, are also exploited and often overlooked.

For DHS to develop and administer the proposed program requires clarification and new resources. The Department currently administers cash assistance programs that are means-tested and require mandatory federal or state compliance by a recipient to participate in employment, a training program, or a treatment plan as a condition of eligibility. The bill proposes a program that explicitly does not impose such requirements or require income eligibility testing.

The Department requests the Legislature describe minimum parameters for the program, such as allowable or unallowable uses of the funds, or if there is an expected end result such as continuous departure from the sex trade while in receipt of the basic income. Moreover, as drafted, the measure's target population is much narrower than the low-income populations that DHS serves.

There is also an issue of equity to consider if DHS implements the program. For example, the Child Welfare Services Branch has a program to respond to minors identified as trafficking victims. However, the rate of eligible board payments for foster youth is much less than \$2,000 per month, though those minors and young adults would also be eligible to apply for Medicaid coverage.

Regarding access to health care coverage, for a single adult participant of this proposed program, this income, in addition to other household income, would be counted as income for Medicaid eligibility. The proposed \$2,000 per month would be above Medicaid's Low Income Adult standards; the single participant would not qualify. However, if a program participant were in a household of 2 or more, they may qualify for Medicaid.

Similarly, for the Legislature's information, the \$2,000 proposed amount exceeds the other monthly cash assistance amounts that can be,

"no higher than sixty-two and one-half per cent of the standard of need and set no lower than thirty-four per cent of the standard of need. The standard of need shall be determined by dividing the 2006 federal poverty level by twelve and rounding down the quotient[.]"<sup>1</sup>

Further, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) considers the proposed benefit as countable unearned income for SNAP eligibility. Consequently, if the participant applies for SNAP or is a current SNAP recipient, DHS will count the proposed income benefit as unearned income, which may reduce the amount of SNAP benefits. The reduction of SNAP would be a cost shift from federal funds to state funds available for food.

However, if the Legislature intends to designate DHS with the development and implementation of the proposed pilot, DHS will need state general funds appropriations for additional positions and to fund the benefit to administer this pilot program. The current funding for positions that administer and operationalize the cash assistance programs is cost allocated to the federal programs and is limited to those federal programs' target population and service objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol07\\_Ch0346-0398/HRS0346/HRS\\_0346-0053.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol07_Ch0346-0398/HRS0346/HRS_0346-0053.htm)

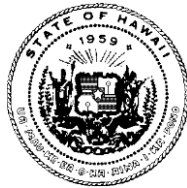
The Department requires a minimum of two FTEs to administer the program as proposed and procurement of services to operationalize the program, including the issuance of the proposed payments. The Department further recommends adding a procurement exemption to streamline the process given the one-year time frame.

Administration of the program would involve procurement activities and drafting of administrative rules to address issues defining the prioritization and selection criteria for the program participants, reporting requirements, managing potential waitlists, and prioritizing those waitlisted. The appropriation should also include funds for the pilot evaluation.

The Department cautions that establishing and recruiting temporary positions to administer the program, development of administrative rules, and procurement of services will require time to complete and may delay the proposed start date of services. Therefore, DHS suggests extending the effective date of the program. Similarly, DHS requests an extension of the reporting deadline to December 2023.

Alternatively, the Legislature may consider appropriating funds to an organization through a Grant in Aid, per Chapter 42F, HRS.

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



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of  
 Women**

SUPPORT for S.B. 3347 SD1  
 February 28, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB3347 SD1, which would create a one-year pilot program to assist people struggling to leave sexually exploitative situations. We ask for one friendly amendment to reopen Section 2(b)(2)(B): “Demonstrate the status as a victim of sex trafficking seeking to exit the sex trade or as an individual seeking to exit prostitution.”

A recent Civil Beat article exposed the dismal State’s prosecution record on sex trafficking. **It is important to keep in mind that no matter how much funding and resources are infused into law enforcement, it is highly unlikely that sex trafficking victims will cooperate in legal cases unless they are in a stable situation with adequate economic support.** We need SB3347 to ensure that exploited women have solid ground to recover and to pursue justice against their exploiters. Further, we need this amendment because oftentimes victimized women in the sex trade do not realize they qualify as sex trafficking victims until later in their journey toward recovery.

**Re: Why doesn’t she just leave?**

We acknowledge that there is a spectrum of experiences in the sex trade. However, prostitution is not “like any other job” for the majority of people who actually prostitute.

Hawai‘i-specific research has found that the length of time from first prostitution experience to exiting prostitution ranged from 5.5 months to 32 years with an average of 13 years. Over one dozen interviews in 2019 with survivors extensively discussed exiting prostitution and found that these individuals attempted to exit prostitution an average of 5.8 times before successfully leaving.<sup>1</sup> Arizona State University also found that the exiting and healing process of people in the sex trade is often circuitous because women often need addiction treatment, mental health

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<sup>1</sup> <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Executive-Summary-Part-II-Sex-Trafficking-in-Hawaii-.pdf>

services, housing and employment services, child care, and legal assistance. In many cases, survivors dipped back into prostitution (sometimes with and sometimes without a trafficker) as a means of survival.

Hawai'i is also one of the toughest sex markets to exit, due to factors like geographic isolation from national sex trafficking service resources, the high cost of living, and the deterrent effect of a lack of confidentiality where 'everyone knows everyone here' in programs serving persons who experience addiction or violence. Further, women and gender diverse people in prostitution face higher rates of policing and arrest because our law continues to view prostituted people as criminals, not survivors.

It is also common for people to not identify as victims until they have spent years out of the sex trade: "I never felt victimized until I started listening to other things that people were saying. And then questioning, what is victimization? That is someone like me. Someone took advantage of me."

**Re: Concerns about equity**

A small one-year pilot program to enable women to avoid recurrent rape is not like any other assistance program and justifies the proposed amount being higher than other recipient groups helped by DHS.

STIs, PTSD, depression, substance abuse, sexual assault, repetitive unwanted sex, robbery, police brutality, physical violence, and even murder go hand-in-hand with prostituting, whether or not there is a third party trafficker. These common hazards can and do make it difficult to both leave prostitution and gain employment during the transition process. Entry level jobs are also not sufficient to provide for the unique needs of recent survivors.

This pilot program would buy time and safety for people needing to build a sustainable livelihood.

We understand that the \$6 million price tag might be met with skepticism and put the bill in jeopardy of deferral. We would be open to limiting the first cohort to 30-60 initial participants which would total \$720,000 to \$1,440,000—drastically lower than the \$6 million ask.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this important S.B. SD1 3347.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3347, S.D. 1

**March 2, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Room 211 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE**

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

Senate Bill No. 3347, S.D. 1: 1) establishes a basic income pilot program for adults who are verified victims of sex trafficking seeking to exit the sex trade within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a period of one year; 2) sets a program target for number of applicants, requirements for eligibility, the monthly benefit amount for participants, prohibitions on program data sharing and work requirements, and reporting requirements for DHS; 3) exempts the program's benefits from State income taxes and, to the extent permissible under federal law, income determination for welfare programs; and 4) appropriates \$6,000,000 to DHS in FY 23 to administer and fund the program.

B&F 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 American Rescue Plan (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 Education has issued rules governing how these 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 these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



# TESTIMONY

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

RE: SB3347 to be heard on Wednesday March 2, at 9.30 PM by video conference

## OPPOSE

To the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and on Judiciary

**Fraud is being solicited here.** Anyone who doesn't realize that someone in the sex trades will tell a made up trafficking story in exchange for \$24,000 is extremely naïve. Research by Sharma and also by Dewey have both showed that close to 100% will lie about being trafficking in exchange for a benefit. The false stories fit the narrative of proponents of the bill by showing "evidence" of a large sex trafficking problem here. Since the legislature can then say they have done something to rescue people from trafficking the political advantages are also evident. You could of course get rid of that fraud by simply allowing anyone who is arrested to apply for this program. This would allow a large population of transgender women here who are not sex trafficked to participate without having to lie.

**False claims** will be made that this is rescuing persons from being sex trafficked. That will simply not be the case. People being sex trafficked are not in a position to simply leave when someone offers them \$2000 per month. Voluntary sex workers can easily make 50K to 100K per year. They will not choose to leave this for \$2000 per month.

We have been here before in the drafting of 712-1209.6 over a dozen years ago. In that case the advocate for the bill had drafted it to limit the ability to clear a criminal prostitution record to sex trafficking victims. She also had written into the bill the use of an independent agency to certify the victim status. This would have allowed **a fat fee to be charged for the certification**, by persons more interested in the money than the facts. In the current legislation the same set up is proposed with dishonest or sloppy non-profits able to charge significant fees to those wishing to qualify. If you get rid of the sex trafficking qualification there would be no more need for an agency certification and no more ability for agencies to profit from this program.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan  
Executive Director



## SB 3347, SD1, RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE

MARCH 2, 2022 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS AND  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. DONOVAN  
DELA CRUZ AND SEN. KARL RHOADS

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance supports SB 3347, SD1, relating to the right to exit the sex trade, which establishes a one-year pilot program within the Hawai'i Department of Human Services to provide a basic monthly income of \$2,000 for up to one year to qualified persons who are verified victims of sex trafficking or who are female or sexual and gender minority individuals seeking to exit the sex trade; and requires the department to keep confidential the personal information of applicants and program participants.

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 effort to provide a basic income for individuals who are verified survivors of sexual exploitation or are seeking to exit the sex trade. Hawai'i's high cost of living is one of the primary barriers to escaping commercial sexual exploitation. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a minimum wage employee must work 114 hours per week to afford a one-

bedroom apartment. During the pandemic, our state's median single-family home prices soared beyond one million dollars.

Survivors also face discrimination in obtaining employment after leaving the sex trade. Unfortunately, they often have criminal records relating to their time in the sex industry, which disincentivize employers from hiring them for good-paying jobs. More acutely, they are typically highly traumatized and in need of time to recover from the psychological and often physical harm to which they were subjected within the islands' prolific commercial sex industry. **Without a pathway to financial security, survivors are economically coerced to remain in the sex trade to meet their basic needs.** In the "aloha" state, we should never allow gender violence to be treated like a career.

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](mailto:kris@imuaalliance.org)**

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:15:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
AF3IRM Hawai'i	Testifying for AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Roads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to express our strong support of SB 3347 to establish a pilot program to provide up to one year of guaranteed income to people who are economically coerced or trapped into the sex trade, including sex trafficking victims, and those seeking to exit the sex trade.

Invest in this pilot program to develop a sustainable intervention and prevention of harm and violence of predominantly black, brown, indigenous, and women of color and gender minorities. Economic support for survivors who have experienced incredible trauma affords the time to focus on healing and the opportunity to build a support system and to access housing, shelter, education, substance abuse counseling, and/or gender-based violence support.

Survivors deserve the right to exit the sex trade as we build a world without sexual exploitation. This impact will also extend to survivors' families, loved ones, and our broader community here in Hawai'i. Please pass SB 3347.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:32:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3347.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:34:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Patricia Mcmanaman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Comments: I stand in strong support of SB3347. All too often victims of human trafficking and exploitation flee their abusers with only the clothes on their backs. In the case of undocumented immigrants, it may take months to years before they receive a trafficking visa (T-visa) from the federal Department of Homeland Security. Without access to federal programs, including Medicaid, SNAP, and financial assistance, many trafficked immigrant women remain susceptible to further abuse and exploitation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 6:04:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill on behalf of vulnerable people stuck in the sex trade.



**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 2:24:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Edith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT SB3347

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist women or girls struggling to leave the sex trade and recover from sex trafficking. It is known that fiscal investments are being considered for law enforcement to tackle sex trafficking, but resources to these survivors are urgently needed. This pilot program would definitely increase survivor cooperation to hold traffickers accountable, a key issue in successful prosecutions.

I firmly SUPPORT approving SB3347.

Sincerely,

Edie Ignacio Neumiller

Past President Zonta Club of Kauai

Kauai Commissioner Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 4:32:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mackenzie Ozoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 9:59:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Diana Harvey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade and recover from sex trafficking. Resources to survivors are urgently needed. This pilot program would actually increase survivor cooperation to hold traffickers accountable, a key factor in successful prosecutions.

Leaving exploitation is challenging for most people in the sex trade. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic. When survivors turn to creditors and favors, re-exploitation becomes almost inevitable.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

Please consider passing this important measure.

Mahalo,

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 3:37:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kaleigh DeSimone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of SB3347. Women and LGBTQ people need a pathway to exit the sex trade. This bill offers the necessary systemic support to do so safely.

Kaleigh DeSimone, PsyD

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 3:56:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Casey Nakamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Casey Nakamura, I was born and raised on the island of Hawai'i and am a former resident of Honolulu, HI. I support SB3347 and ask that you pass this bill in order to provide tangible ways for victims of sex trafficking in Hawai'i to leave and actually sustain livelihood and wellbeing outside of the industry. All victims have the right to exit the sex trade, but if they are not supported (by way of financial assistance, housing, community care, etc) this highly increases the risk of them re-entering into the sex trade. As we know, the majority of sex trafficking victims are girls and women of color (indigenous girls and women to be specific), and they are already disproportionately affected in regards to employment, income, and housing. In order to safely and effectively leave the sex trade we must provide adequate resources to these folks. Please pass this pilot program laid out by SB3347 so we can continue to protect the most vulnerable in our community!

Thank you,

Casey

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 5:09:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Valerie Eshelman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:00:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Esme Yokooji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:**

**Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.**

**Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.**

**This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.**

**No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.**

**Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.**

**Mahalo,**

**Esme Yokooji**

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 9:28:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lindsay Terkelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking, and I am asking that you please pass this impactful bill.

Exiting the sex trade is challenging. Among (and often because of) challenges like recovery from PTSD, STI's, addiction, abuse, trauma and more, a primary barrier to exiting the sex trade is that acquiring and maintaining income while transitioning out of the trade is not realistic.

SB3347 can help provide critical material assistance to support those seeking to exit, breaking down a primary barrier to exiting. It can also help serve as a beacon of hope to those who couldn't have considered exiting as a feasible option.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors. No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform coerced sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,  
Lindsay Terkelsen



**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:25:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kristen Young  
Senate District 11

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:44:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Raul Nohea Goodness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3347. I believe in supporting exiting prostitution.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 7:57:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Maddalynn Seseparasara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Transwomen are heavily involved in the sex trades and are almost never sex trafficking victims. Creating this victims only rule will leave them and many other independent workers out of this program. Many former works do have financial issues. Discriminating based on victim status is not a good plan.

Mahalo,

Maddalynn Seseparasara

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:54:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nancy & Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Senate Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole AND Honorable Senate Ways & Means plus Judiciary Committee Members:

We submit this testimony in SUPPORT of SB3347, SD1 with its current amendments except for the effective date to commence in the year 2050. Hawai'i's high living costs, geographic isolation hindering access to national sex trafficking resources, among other reasons, all present barriers to exiting the sex trade. Girls, women and the LGBTQ community are all targets for this nefarious trade and all require our assistance to access services to avoid exploitation by sex trafficking perpetrators and proponents. This bill would provide a valuable and necessary \$2,000 monthly stipend for up to 2 years to assist those forced into the sex trade to not only exit this exploitive industry, but perhaps also access services. Such victims typically require an array of services including addiction treatment, mental health services, housing and employment assistance, child care and also legal advice.

For all of the above reasons, we urge your honorable committees to please pass SB3347, SD1 with amendments as to time out of your committee. Mahalo again for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB3347, SD1.

Warm aloha,

Nancy & Zeb Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:01:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members,

I urge you to pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Pass SB3347!

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:05:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alexa St Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3347/HB2463: Relating to the Right to Exit the Sex Trade**

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members,

My name is Donovan Kamakani Albano, a queer Native Hawaiian resident from Kalihi, O'ahu. I strongly urge you to pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQIA+ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i, and they deserve the option to leave whenever they please. If the state of Hawai'i seeks to create feminist and queer feminist futures that women and LGBTQIA+ folks deserve, then this is a critical step. To say otherwise is to entrench cisheteropatriarchy, classism, racism, and further supports the harmful military-prostitution complex.

Accordingly, I strongly ask that you pass this important measure. Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Na'u me ke aloha,  
Donavan Kamakani Albano

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:47:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB3347 and urge you to pass this bill so that women and children that want to leave the sex trade have a real chance to make it and survive that they wouldn't have without a monthly income.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez

Kapa'a, Kaua'i



**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:52:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tomoko B Yokooji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT**

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:**

**I am writing today to ask that you please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.**

**Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade. It often involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of this life is not realistic.**

**This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.**

**No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.**

**Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.**

**Sincerely,**

**Tomoko B. Yokooji**

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:02:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Catherine Ritti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members,

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 3347. This bill will create a pilot program to provide a guaranteed income to those who want to leave the sex trade but are struggling to do so.

Many people in the sex trade are unable to exit because they don't have the resources to support them as they transition out. For most, time spent in the sex trade is traumatizing and for all, it's stigmatizing.

This pilot program would ensure that people, mainly women and members of the LGBTQ+ community, would not have to sell sexual access to their bodies in order to survive and they can take care of basic necessities as they focus on healing and taking the next steps in their lives.

Nobody should be coerced by financial insecurity into selling sexual access to their bodies. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Catherine Ritti

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:05:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Alani Bagcal and I urge you to please support the passing of SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

This one-year pilot program would provide time and safety for those seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate a support system for adult survivors. No one should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i. Please pass SB3347.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify.

Alani Bagcal

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 7:47:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
natalia villegas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

Mahalo,

Natalia Villegas

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 7:49:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alexandra Balgos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people in leaving the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

In a vast majority of cases, leaving prostitution is a considerable challenge that requires constant resources. As someone who supports a community fund for sex trade survivors, I have noticed that people leaving prostitution request the most need for safe and secure housing, childcare, computers, phones, food, and medicine. These are necessities that should be accessible to everyone, especially women and queer folks in recovery.

PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive support for healing. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or gender expansive person should be relegated to sexual servitude to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 8:54:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Daniel Kauwila Mahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e ka Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Daniel Kauwila Mahi and I am writing in support of SB 3347 RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE with the SD1 Amendments. The proposal for a one-year pilot program to provide a basic monthly income of \$2,000 for a period of up to one year to qualified adults who are verified victims of sex trafficking and are seeking to exit the sex trade advances a just future for victims of sex trafficking.

Being attentive to the needs of sex trafficking victims by providing a path towards exiting sustains the illegality of sex trafficking while simultaneously ensuring safety and protections of the aforementioned victims. Victims of sex trafficking are seldom offered the opportunity to generate income after exiting and may be coerced back into sex trafficking. This bill holds the state accountable to protect its citizens' rights to food, housing, and security.

If the state has the foresight to support this bill and its amendments then it will be on the path towards creating a future where the systemic injustices performed against sex trafficking victims are diminished and set the precedents for Hawai'i, who is on the cutting edge of supporting victims of sex trafficking because Hawai'i is "hot spot" for sex trafficking. Passing this bill ensures a just Hawai'i and a more just world.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:11:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:21:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Makanalani Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:**

**Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking. Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.**

**This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.**

**No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.**

**Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.**

**Mahalo,**

**Makanalani Gomes**



**LATE**

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:35:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Riana S	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Right to Exit Prostitution SB3347/HB2463

Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members:

Please pass SB3347, which would create a guaranteed income pilot program to assist people struggling to leave the sex trade, including those seeking to recover from sex trafficking.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due and involves a constant fight for resources. PTSD, STIs, addiction, sexual assault, physical trauma, depression are all common "occupational hazards" in prostitution that require intensive recovery. Acquiring and maintaining employment during the transition out of the life is not realistic.

This one-year pilot program would buy time and safety for people seeking to exit the sex trade as they navigate the support system for adult survivors.

No woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

**SB-3347-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 3:00:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
aranda gillum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a female member of the community I support this bill so that we can help our fellow sisters exit a trade that they may have been forced into. Needing money to provide for you or your family can make you do things you don't want to do but have to to survive. If we could help the women in our community who have basic needs and instincts just like you and I, we would change so many lives! Including future generations raised by women trying to exit the sex trade but can't find a way out. \$2,000 is bare minimum needed to live here but would give hope to the hopeless and help these women to decompress from their PTSD without having to go back to sex trade to pay the bills. Please help our community members to thrive in their own talents, not just drown in meeting their own necessities.

Representative Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice  
Senate Committee of Ways and Means

**LATE**

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice  
Senate Committee of Judiciary

### **SB3347 SD1 RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 9:30AM via videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee of Ways and Means and Senate Committee of Judiciary, my name is Noelani Lommasson, a UH Manoa Undergraduate in Social Work and I am here to give my testimony in support of SB3347 SD1.

I recently came upon a news article about Ashley Maha`a in Hawai`i about her struggle and experience in the world of sex trafficking. The article included that in the U.S. the average youngest age to be trafficked is 14, but in Hawaii it is 11. What saddened me even more to hear was that trafficking had gotten worse since the beginning of the pandemic. After reading her story, it led me to research more into the sex trafficking issue here in Hawai`i. Because of the trauma that they face, having the necessary resources and support is vital for traffic victims.

A report done in 2019 here in Hawai`i written by Arizona State State University Office of Sex and Hawai`i State Commission on the Status of Women, many women who escaped trafficking and were trying to receive help, were dissatisfied with the lack of support. For some women they did not know where to find support so they would go back to prostitution, or they felt there was no support. Some programs would not even speak about sex trafficking while being treated there. In general, the kind of support that sex trafficking victims need is crucial for their well-being and healing process.

The costs of living in Hawai`i are especially high compared to other states. For those exiting out of sex trafficking, they may not have the ability to find a job immediately, may have STDs, mental health issues to take care of, may be pregnant, or many other situations that cannot allow them to individually have a source of income. Senate Bill 3347 SD1, to start a pilot program, would allow victims the buffer time to have basic necessities, but also focus on addressing any health, mental, and emotional trauma they encounter(ed) before, during, or after being trafficked.

Being a woman myself, I would feel very lost just exiting out of the sex trafficking world and would be hoping for some form of support as a starting point. I would also be greatly appreciative if having money to help me recover was the least of my worries.

It is also important, as the newest version of the bill mentions, that those seeking out this bill's benefits have documentation from an organization which may help them. Besides the \$2,000 that will be provided for victims, it is not through simply providing the money, but through the services, support, and care that they should receive that will help them recover. This should be emphasized within the bill and hopefully the driving force for beginning a pilot program.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you, Representative Dela Cruz and Representative Rhoads, and all the members of the committees to support the Senate Bill 3347 SD1 to begin this pilot program that provides \$2,000 per month for sex trafficking victims. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.