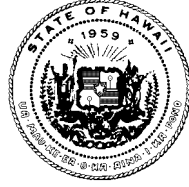


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 7, 2022

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

HEARING: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 3:30 pm
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 the Department to keep confidential the personal information of applicants and program participants. Appropriates moneys. Requires report to the Legislature.

Communities across California and Canada have initiated successful universal and 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 want to impose requirements or require income eligibility testing, and DHS requests the Legislature describe minimum parameters for the program. Moreover, as drafted, the measure's target population is much narrower than the low-income populations that DHS serves. Given the State's anti-discrimination protections, it is unclear whether the State can limit participants by their gender identity or gender minority as described in the bill.

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, and \$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[.]"¹

Also, 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.

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.

¹ See https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol07_Ch0346-0398/HRS0346/HRS_0346-0053.htm

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.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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

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

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3347

**February 8, 2022
3:30 p.m.
Room 225 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: 1) establishes a basic income pilot program for adults who are victims of sex trafficking, or women or sexual and gender minority individuals 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:

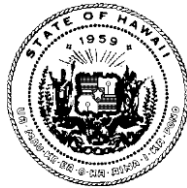
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support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



‘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 SB3347
February 7, 2022

Good afternoon Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Honorable Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3347, which would create a one-year pilot program to assist people struggling to leave prostitution.

Re: Why doesn’t she just leave?

We acknowledge that there are 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.¹ 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 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.

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

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. 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 SB3347.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

TESTIMONY

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

RE:SB3347 to be heard on Tuesday February 8, at 3:30PM by video conference

Comments

To the Senate Committee on Human Services

The legislature should really discourage the attempts to divide people by race. The continued assertion that those who wrote this bill are speaking for people of color, LBGT types, etc. is problematic. It is misleading at best, to claim any right to speak for people of color, and certainly not for sex workers.

Durbar, in India, is a sex worker organization with 65,000 members. They are people of color in one of the poorest areas in the world. They support sex worker rights. In Hawaii our mahuwahine community is largely Hawaiian, Samoan, and other non-white mixtures. Many of them have worked in the sex trades. They have not authorized these people to speak for them.

The fact that a group may include some LBGT people, some Hawaiians, or some former sex workers should not give them license to speak for those groups. The legislature should know better.

The bill contains an unconstitutional clause in which females and sexual or gender minorities may be eligible for a benefit. Gender equality is part of our state constitution.

Since many people age out of sex work with little savings or job skills, I won't oppose the bill in concept. It should be noted that sex workers can make that much money in a week so this is no inducement to leave. And actual sex trafficking victims may not be in a position to leave.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan
Chair, The Libertarian Party of Hawaii



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

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 · SENATE HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. JOY A. SAN
BUENAVENTURA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SB 3347, 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

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:50:50 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports SB3347.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808



To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: **SB 3347 – RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE**
Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 3:30 p.m., Conference Rm 225 & via videoconference
Position: **Support**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i stands in support of SB 3347. This measure would establish 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. This bill further requires the Department to keep confidential the personal information of applicants and program participants. It also appropriates \$6,000,000 towards this pilot program and requires reporting to the Legislature.

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports this bill as it will provide a pilot program to support the economic survival of survivors of the sext trade, including sex trafficking victims, who want to exit that patriarchal system. This is particularly applicable to Native Hawaiian women, women of color, and sexual and gender identity minorities who do not have the same right or economic ability to exit the sex trade as affluent, college-educated, or white women who have the economic means or ability to make such exit by seeking employment elsewhere or by enrolling in or continuing on an educational pathway without state assistance.

This is important because people who are economically coerced or trapped into the sex trade, including sex trafficking victims, seeking to exit the sex trade, can highly benefit from this pilot program as it would incentivize a healthful lifestyle while reducing the risk of recidivism.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ *Melodie R. Aduja*

Chair, Health Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

Contact: legislativepriorities@gmail.com (808) 258-8889



Right to Exit Prostitution SB3347

Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Senator San Buenaventura , Vice Chair Senator Ihara, and Honorable Members Senator Acasio, Senator Fevella, Senator Misalucha

We ask that you 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, we ask that you pass this important measure.

Mahalo,

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii



Hawaii Women's Coalition

February 7, 2022

Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT SB3347

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, we ask that you pass this important measure.

Mahalo,

Hawai'i Women's Coalition

Call Off Your Old
Tired Ethics



SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF COYOTE RI

February 7th, 2022

My name is [Bella Robinson](#). I have been a sex worker for 35 years. I founded COYOTE RI in 2010. Since then I have served as the executive director. COYOTE RI is an organization of sex workers, former sex workers and sex trafficking victims, who advocate for policies that promote the health and safety of sex workers. We conduct participatory research, run focus groups and engage in policy work. We also provide direct services to sex workers and trafficking victims, and we support incarcerated sex workers.

I am writing to you today in opposition of SB3347. The bill is offensive that it excludes sex worker rights organizations and seems to think that the Dept of Human Services are qualified to determine who are “qualified persons who are verified victims of sex trafficking” and “who are female or sexual and gender minority individuals seeking to exit the sex trade”.

Its also offensive that they excluding men, transgender men and non binary people from support. This bill provides no guidelines or details, and we doubt any that sex workers seeking to exit the sex industry are going to be provided 2,000 a month for up to a year without all kinds of rules, requirements and barriers. Dept of Human Services has no way to verify who “people involved in the sex industry” are. I also notice the phrase “for up to a year” so basically they can require someone to jump through hoops and barriers and only end up providing one month in basic income. Our participatory research shows that shamed based counseling is as psychologically damaging as conversion therapy is for LGBT people.

SB3347 is kind of like asking rape victims to go get services from their rapists. “People in the sex industry” have good reason not to trust government institutes who have promoted stigma and violence against them for years and who are part of trafficking tasks forces, who engage with law enforcement to conduct raids and rescues that traumatizes them. Rarely do they find victims. All the evidence based research shows that criminalization fuels violence and exploitation, because the people being exploited can not report it, without risking being arrested. The colladeral damage is sex workers being arrested, harassed and abused by law enforcement, put in cages, ordered to pay fines. It is also very dangerous for sex workers with children to engage with Dept of

Human Services as they often report them to child services. Sex workers know that they will take their children away without any evidence that they are bad parents.

Since sex worker led organizations actually know who the local sex workers are, wouldnt it make sense to fund them to provide services to their own members?

For instance COYOTE RI provided RI sex workers with over 75k (2020-2021) in rent assistance, grocery gift cards, cleaning supplies. Now we are getting ready to provide them COVID rapid home tests, N95 masks and more grocery card gift cards and help paying their phone bills.

COYOTE RI has conducted numerous research projects, surveying US sex workers. We have conducted focus groups, we have analyzed tens of thousands of pages of charging documents by accessing FOIA requests. (Below we have provided the links to our archived data.)

1. Pembroke – Sex Work in the US After FOSTA (April 2018-19) Survey Quantitative Data [\[link\]](#)
2. Pembroke- Trafficking and the Sex Industry in the United States Survey 2017 [\[link\]](#)
3. Trafficking and the Sex Industry in Rhode Island Survey- 2014-2016 [\[link\]](#)
4. Youth report - Policing Modern Day Slavery & Carceral Care in Rhode Island. [\[link\]](#)

Our research shows that shamed based counseling is as psychologically damaging as conversation therapy is to LBGT folks. Its problematic that anti trafficking organizations seek to pit sex workers against sex trafficking victims.

In fact Polaris Project the largest trafficking hotline in the US,, refers “people involved in the sex industry” to SWOP Behind Bars, because they have no direct services, even though they are funded at over 7 million a year. Even though Sex worker rights led organizations are underserved and underfunded, we do the best we can to provide services to “people involved in the sex industry” who are in crisis and we direct them to the limited services available for those who want to exit. However that doesn’t solve folks “POVERTY ISSUES”. Most states have housing lists that are years long. Affordable housing is an issue in every state. Dept of Health and Human Services already has millions, for instance SNAP funds do not feed people

for a full month. Job training doesn't get folks a job that pays a living wage. "People involved in the sex industry" are engaged in sex work because its their best option to escape poverty and provide for their families. Public services should be for all poor people, not just "people involved in the sex industry."

It makes more sense for the Dept of Human Services to advocate for affordable housing, medicare for all, increase in minimum wage, and more opportunities for poor people. If any funding is allotted for "people involved in the sex industry" who want to exit, those funds should go to local sex worker rights led organizations. The anti trafficking organizations are already funded at over 600 million a year in federal TIPS funding. [\[link\]](#)

We ask you to vote NO on SB 3347 and suggest that the Dept of Human Services engage with their local sex worker rights led organizations to better understand this populations needs and how to distrube resources to "people involved in the sex industry."

Sincerely,

Bella Robinson (COYOTE RI)

401-525-8757 Bella@coyoteri.org

LATE



TESTIMONY
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII
% 92-149 Kōhi Place
Kapolei, HI 96707

RE: **SB3347** to be heard on Tuesday February 8

Please oppose this bill.

This is classic divide and conquer tactics used on women and the feminist movement throughout history. The way the bill is worded it leaves the question of race worthiness to be a qualification for the assistance outlined in the proposal. This will only create more divide among women who are already on the fringes of society. This bill makes me feel like it is the bill's intention to make feminist progress shameful and it's using the race card to get away with it. This bill is inflammatory and it is not inline with Libertarian principles because there ain't no such thing as a free lunch. This is not the way. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Feena Bonoan".

Feena Bonoan
Vice Chair
February 7, 2022

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 5:38:21 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alex Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in strong support this bill to support women, gender minorities, and people who are victims of sex trafficking to exit the sex trade. For the many people who enter the sex trade against their will or as the result of duress from poverty, this is a vital service.

Please pass SB3347.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Miller

Resident of Honolulu

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 4:46:26 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tamara Swift	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The burden should be on society that caters to men and which produces predators and sex criminals to provide adequate care and ability to exit the sex trade which is so powerful and well funded.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:36:56 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e members of the committee,

My name is Alani and I urge you to pass SB3347 to invest in noncarceral interventions to the sex trade and assist people struggling to leave prostitutuion.

Mahalo,

Alani Bagcal

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:43:05 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Shimizu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB3347 to invest in noncarceral interventions to the sex trade and assist people struggling to leave prostitution. I believe \$2,000 guaranteed monthly income for one year will help people have the stability and time to work out their mental, emotional, and physical health to figure out what they truly want to do, away from being in a chaotic environment. Thank you for your support.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 11:46:51 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia Mcmanaman	Individual	Support	No

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

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 1:10:26 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
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 extremely complicated and challenging for the majority of people in the sex trade due to lack of employment skills, no job history, interrupted education, caring for children, and legal and mental health problems. Housing, transportation, referrals, and recovery take time and tailored resources.

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

Accordingly, I ask that you pass this important measure.

Mahalo,

Esme Yokooji

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:36:31 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Rosemarie Muller and I live in Keaau, Hawai'i. 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 pass this important measure.

Thank you

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:14:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mychal E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Please pass SB3347 to invest in non-carceral interventions to the sex trade and assist people struggling to leave prostitution. If we claim to respect the autonomy and agency of people in the sex trade, we must provide genuine support for their right to exit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:49:12 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara and the Committee on Human Services,

I support SB3347. Please support SB3347 so that more people may exit the sex trade.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:51:41 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shayna Lonoaea Alexander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shayna Lonoaea and I'm submitting written testimony in strong support of SB3347. A monthly income is critical to ensure people who want to exit the sex trade have the ability to do so.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:27:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tanya Smith-Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Right to Exit Prostitution SB3347

Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Senator San Buenaventura , Vice Chair Senator Ihara, and Honorable Members Senator Acasio, Senator Fevella, Senator Misalucha

I ask that you 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,

Tanya Smith- Johnson, MS, CPM

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1530 HST

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3347 Relating to the Right to Exit the Sex Trade

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and the members of the Committee on Human Services:

Mahalo for hearing SB3347 relating to the right to exit the sex trade. I am writing in **strong support** of SB3347.

The right to exit the sex trade is an important issue to me as I hail from a community that is negatively impacted by the sex trade. There is a strong correlation between living in poverty and falling victim to sex trafficking. Additionally, survivors of child sex abuse are far more likely to succumb to the sex trade as adults; however, in cases where someone becomes homeless as a youth or adolescent, they are typically recruited by a pimp within the first 48 hours.

The high cost of living makes it nearly impossible for someone to exit the sex trade on their own. During the pandemic, we witnessed a surge of landlords soliciting sex from their tenants. **One late rent payment placed the tenant in this predicament where they had to choose between homelessness and losing their bodily autonomy.** Women and children are disproportionately affected by poverty. As a result, they are especially vulnerable, and a prime target for sex traffickers.

I recall a day at a park where I was talking story with an unhoused neighbor. About ten minutes into the conversation, a pimp approached me offering food in exchange for sex. When I declined, he responded “I know you’re hungry” and tried to abduct me. There are other instances where pimps took a gentler approach: “the boyfriend method.” A type of “foot-in-door persuasion” where poor women and girls are showered with affection and provided a roof over their head, isolated, then forced to repay by engaging in commercial sex acts. Many victims are unable to leave the situation because they have little to no resources and community support. Additionally, they fear criminalization.

The basic monthly income for up to 1 year will serve as an ample resource for victims of the sex trade. They can become empowered survivors instead of a name on a headstone. For that, **I strongly support SB3347.**

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Soon Kim

Senate District 15

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:49:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sabra Della Lucia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill would not only address the issue of sex trade across our islands, but would also increase resources to high need and high risk populations of women. For many, engaging in sex work is out of necessity to support self and family. Without this financial support, we cannot expect that women will have an incentive to lead this business (when preferred) without other means to meet basic housing and feed needs.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:25:37 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith Ann Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Legislature – Committee on Human Services

Hearing: Date/Time: Tuesday, 2-8-2022 3:30pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in strong support of SB3347 (pilot project to help people struggling to leave the sex trade)

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and esteemed members of the Committee,

I am writing in 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.

Leaving prostitution is often challenging for most 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 this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

JudithAnnArmstrong@gmail.com

Honolulu, HI 96815

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:52:09 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mareva Minerbi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:03:29 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Please pass SB 3347 to invest in noncarceral interventions to the sex trade and assist people struggling to leave prostitution. The bill 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 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.

Please pass this important measure and ensure that no woman or LGBTQ person should have to perform sex acts to survive in Hawai'i.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:32:24 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Bertoli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to help people escape the sex trade and get support and protection they need.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:19:24 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In STRONG Support of this measure.

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:09:38 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Juliet Begley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony

Juliet Begley

3931 Gail Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

RE: SB 2557, hearing on Feb. 8th – Tuesday, at 3:30 PM by Video Conference

IN OPPOSITION

To the Senate Committee on Human Services:

This measure for an ACT is contrary to rational thinking and in no way reflects the position of many sex workers and human rights organizations when addressing anti-trafficking measures. Universal Basic Income as a concept is not a blueprint for taking people out of the sex trade.

How did anyone think that this would even begin to address the issue?

Sincerely – Juliet Begley

LATE

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:08:37 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Davidson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB3347 is based on the false foundation that the Sex Worker Rights Movement, and those who support us are majority “affluent, college-educated, or white women”.

The Sex Worker Rights Movement is led by people of all genders and backgrounds, fighting for the rights to speak for ourselves, and make the sex trade safe for everyone involved.

Our allies are just as diverse as we are, but we prefer that those with the loudest megaphone would amplify our voices and concerns. Not just promise us arbitrary amounts with time limits and requisite trauma revelations.

This bill excludes men who trade sex, while also stipulating a desire to leave sex work as a means to benefit from this poorly considered idea. As if there’s a profile to fit, and levels of victim hood to live up to.

As with previous attempts by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women* (most likely run by Kathy Zang alias Kathryn Xian, but optically represented by Khara Jabola-Carolus), this bill incentivizes claims of abuse and victim hood, to qualify. This would also falsely inflate trafficking statistics, since most groups opposed to sex work conflate the two, in order to justify increasing grant & donation requests.

There’s reference to LGBTQ+ communities in this bill, but prominent advocates LAMBDA Legal and National Center for Transgender Equality recommend decriminalizing sex work on their respective sites

https://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/20160526_cut-violence-against-our-communities-decriminalize-sex-work

<https://transequality.org/blog/decriminalize-sex-work-to-protect-transgender-lives>

SB-3347

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:28:53 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darlene Popoalii	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee,

I can't testify against his bill because I ain't dumb enough to turn down money! In fact you'd be hard pressed to find a sex worker who would turn down this money or any other money! I am however interested in the job of following the sex worker around to ensure she does not accept any money in exchange for sex! So please contact me ASAP should you folks pass this one!

Now what is needed? Full and total decriminalization of all sex work for adults of course! When the workers are in control, when they have control over working conditions abuse in the industry goes down! I am a survivor of sex trafficking and it's the criminalization that made it possible and put me in many sticky, traumatic experiences! I care deeply about trafficking victims! I care deeply about all sex workers, their health, their safety, their well being and I know they will be safer when one is not criminalized because they accept money for sex!

Sincerely, Darlene Popoalii