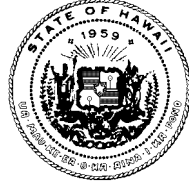


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 28, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: SCR 223 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH OR CONTRACT WITH A VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER TO MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

HEARING: March 29, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this resolution, offers comments, and defers to the Office of Youth Services (OYS).

PURPOSE: This resolution urges the Department of Human Services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate and maintain an emergency shelter for children who are survivors of sex trafficking.

The Department agrees that more resources are needed to support minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation and will continue to work with OYS and community providers to address the needs of children and youth survivors of sex trafficking. If the Legislature wants to expand shelter capacity, future appropriations will be needed to contract services, provide oversight, and facilitate data collection and sharing.

Currently, DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) protocol ensures that identified trafficked children and youth are assessed and receive appropriate services and protections, regardless of parental abuse or neglect. The Department contracts a provider that delivers statewide victim-centered, trauma-informed comprehensive services that are individualized and responsive to

the needs, values, culture, and gender identity of minor victims of human trafficking. The provider also conducts training for DHS, resource caregivers, and the community that promotes public awareness of the sexual exploitation of children.

For youth in DHS foster custody, CWS currently uses its emergency shelters and current list of resource caregivers to place minor victims of sex trafficking. In addition, CWS also uses the Hale Kipa Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center (HLAC) at the KYFWC, which serves minors, ages 12 through 17, who are victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Since its opening, CWS has placed 70 youth in foster care at HLAC.

DHS continues its ongoing work to ensure these minor victims are identified and receive appropriate services. Notably, to maintain the operations of this and future emergency shelters, funding will need to become a line item in the OYS base budget.

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

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG - Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 24, 2022

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 223/SR 216 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH OR CONTRACT WITH A VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER TO MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

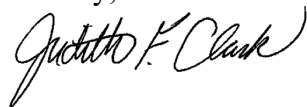
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 223/SR 216.

Providing emergency shelter, counseling and other related services to minors who are survivors of sex trafficking is a much-needed service.

The Hawaii Department of Human Services received at least 183 reports of suspected child sex trafficking between 2018 and 2020. Between February 2019 and June 2021, Hawaii's Child Welfare Services agency received 205 reports of children being trafficked. At least 67 of those cases were confirmed. The Suzannah Wesley Community Center, which is contracted by CWS to provide treatment to trafficking victims, reported treating 248 individuals referred to them between 2019 and 2020. The nonprofit National Human Trafficking Hotline reported that in 2020 it received 108 reports of human trafficking from people in Hawaii, including calls, texts, emails and online tips.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

LATE

SCR-223

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:44:36 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/29/2022 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stand in STRONG SUPPORT.