

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 03/17/2017  
**Time:** 02:55 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0930 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

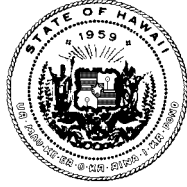
**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 930 and provides comments.

Given the Department's upcoming leadership changes, it has concerns about the chair designation for the proposed workgroup and the set date by which the workgroup must be convened.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 930.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 17, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB930 - Relating to Education**

Hearing: March 17, 2017, 2:55 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

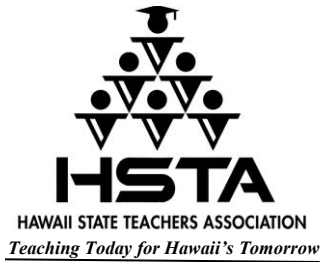
**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill and provides comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to create and appropriate funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

The DHS sees the tragic effects of sexual abuse on Hawaii's children and their families. In SFY 2015, fifty-one children (ranging from age 3 through age 17) were in foster care due to confirmed sexual abuse by a family member.

The DHS works collaboratively with the Department of Education (DOE) to prevent child sex abuse, and serves as a resource to the DOE.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



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Corey Rosenlee  
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Justin Hughey  
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Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: HB 930 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports and suggests amendments for HB 930**, relating to education.

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

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. Yet, studies have shown that up to 81 percent of teachers receive little preservice information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given inservice (on the job) information. As this committee's preamble notes, programs currently exist, in Hawai'i, to train teachers and staff, and provide sexual abuse prevention education to students, but implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important that both teachers and students be informed on how to prevent sexual abuse and handle it when it occurs. Accordingly, we urge you to **add a public school teacher appointed by Hawaii State Teachers Association to the task force** to ensure that the classroom experience and teacher-student dynamic are given adequate representation.

We are thankful that this bill covers sex trafficking. Anti-trafficking lessons are frequently requested by public school teachers to combat student exploitation and are included in coordinated protocols being developed for the Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family

Courts. Sex trafficking is differentially defined from sexual abuse as the use of “force, fraud, or coercion” in compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who *should* be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com. The average age of a victim’s entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation being heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also prime targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of “solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks” (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual abuse, so must we safeguard against the closely related crime of sexual exploitation and provide educators with the tools needed to ease victims’ reentry into the classroom setting.

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



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

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## TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 930, RELATING TO EDUCATION

**Senate Committee on Education**  
**Hon. Michelle Kidani, Chair**  
**Hon. Kaiali'i, Vice Chair**

**Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:55 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of, with proposed amendments for HB 930, relating to education.

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often hovering around public school campuses to target our children. Traffickers are experts in observing and selecting their victims, and often infiltrate public schools by using students to recruit their peers. One of the largest child sex trafficking rings discovered on Hawai'i's shores was unearthed in 2014. It included 16 students, most whom were students at Mililani High School and Moanalua High School, two of our state's top performing schools. Currently, IMU Alliance is involved in investigations at seven schools facing trafficking problems, all of which were initiated this year.

We are 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 services to 130 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims in total. We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach. Teachers, in turn, frequently request information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state's prolific slave trade. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we

cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. The Average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation is 13-years-old, with 60 percent of sex trafficked children being under the age of 16. Approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments are operational in Hawai'i. An estimated 1,500-2,500 women and children are victimized by sex traffickers in our state annually. Over 110,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, a number that has *not* decreased with the recent shuttering of Backpage.com's "adult services" section. 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 of 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 such. As one underage victim—now a survivor—told IMUAlliance 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."

We believe that education ends exploitation. When students are empowered with knowledge about the risk factors of sex trafficking and sexual abuse, they are able to spot the signs of abuse and take action to protect themselves, their peers, and their communities. Moreover, education guards against the psychological impact of abuse, which, again, can include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorder, explosive outbursts, self-injurious and suicidal behavior, and hyper-sexualization.

We are enthused that sex trafficking has been explicitly included as a point of task force consideration in the bill. Sex trafficking is, essentially, a commercialized form of sexual abuse. That said, to ensure that the experiences of anti-trafficking victim service providers and the survivors we serve, as well as the standards-based prevention programs we facilitate in public and private schools, are fully addressed, we humbly **ask that this bill be amended to include a sex trafficking victim service provider as part of the task force**. We also **suggest that a public school teacher be made a member of the task force**, since teachers enable educational programming and curricula, while managing student response and intervention frameworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance



# THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

*A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children*

*Executive Director*  
Adriana Ramelli

*Advisory Board*

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Carol Fukunaga

David I. Haverly

Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Robert H. Pantell, MD

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: March 17, 2017

To: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

From: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 930 with Comments  
Relating to Education

Good morning Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports H.B. 930, which creates and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age appropriate curricula; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics.

In addition, we respectfully submit the following comments for the Committee's consideration:

- We ask that the Committee please exempt the task force created by this measure from the requirements of Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 92, Hawai'i's Sunshine Law, based on the subject matter and mission to be delegated to this task force.

Sexual violence is a sensitive topic, and to understand challenges and areas for improvement and to obtain information about what stakeholders are encountering, frank and open discussion is necessary. In addition, the privacy of students, teachers and others who share information with the task force about their experiences should be protected to the greatest extent possible. Applying the requirements of Chapter 92 could have a chilling effect, resulting in difficulty obtaining accurate and complete information for the task force to make effective recommendations.

Moreover, in our experience, the requirements of Chapter 92 can complicate the sharing of information and discussion between task force members, and add significantly to the administrative and technical burdens upon all task force members. While we acknowledge the importance of transparency and the participation of the public in governmental proceedings, we are concerned that the

task force created by this bill would have difficulty achieving its mandate in a timely and sufficient matter within the timeframe provided, if subject to the requirements of Chapter 92.

- We further request that the Committee please consider including an additional stakeholder in the task force's composition. The Hawai'i Children's Action Network should also be included in the task force based on their expertise concerning the education of young children, consistent with the pre-K and elementary school-aged students for whom prevention education will be considered by the task force.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii. Nationally, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been the victim of sexual assault in their lifetimes. Of these, 44% were under the age of 18 at the time of the assault. This is consistent with SATC's experience on Oahu – in 2015, of the 682 victims who sought care for the first time at SATC, half were children. It is important to note that these numbers do not reflect the total number of victims on Oahu or in our state, but only those who were able to seek help from our center.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people be taught the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves against sexual violence and obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible. Moreover, it is critical that those who interact the most with children and young people, including parents, other guardians, educators and school staff, receive sufficient training to understand issues of sexual violence and respond appropriately.

In the past, SATC delivered training and education on four age-appropriate, evidence-informed curricula, designed for students in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, middle school, and high school, that were developed locally in close partnership with the State Department of Education (DOE), teachers from both public and private schools, and the University of Hawaii's Teacher Institute of Education, and are DOE-approved to fulfill existing health education requirements. Our previous collaborations with the Department of Health and with DOE schools resulted in the training of many teachers, counselors, and school administrators and curricula delivery to students.

Despite these combined efforts, it is our understanding that implementation of sexual abuse prevention education curricula is not consistent system wide, and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular, consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting.

Laws requiring that public school systems implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement, have passed in 26 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 17 others. These laws and the programs they would create represent a national trend in safety, health and wellbeing education and



are collectively referred to as “Erin’s Law” after an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education.

The task force process is necessary to provide the State of Hawaii the means to design and plan a strong, sustainable program to consistently make sexual abuse prevention education available to all public school students.

In order to do so, the State of Hawai‘i should follow the model of several other states that have successfully adopted Erin’s Law, by bringing together stakeholders from the legislature, relevant state agencies and the community in order to collaboratively review existing policies, programs and curricula; assess service gaps and needs; and make well-informed recommendations through a transparent, report-driven process.

# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services  
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

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

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

March 14, 2017

Representative Michelle Kidani, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 930 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 930 Relating to Education.

One in five girls and one in twenty boys have been victims of child sexual abuse. Three out of four adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. (National Center for Victims of Crime data).

The only education I received about sexual abuse as a child was to beware of strangers. But it was not a stranger who sexually abused me and five other girls in my fourth grade class – It was my school bus driver. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more until someone finally reported it to the school. When we were questioned about it, we believed that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, HYSN is working with the Public School System on a sexual health education and positive youth development program. This year, several sixth grade students who had completed the Making a Difference curriculum reported to school staff that they were being sexually abused. Because of the education they received, they recognized that what was happening to them was abuse; understood that they did not have to allow it to happen; felt empowered to report it; and had trusted adults at the school with whom they could discuss it. While it is very sad that the children were abused, it is wonderful that they are receiving the help they need to end the abuse.

No child deserves sexual abuse, and prevention education in the schools is a powerful tool to prevent it. Fortunately, Hawaii has many of the resources needed to provide education to prevent sexual abuse including an evidence-based, culturally

relevant curriculum developed by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center that is already in use in some public schools.

Hawaii Youth Services Network would be pleased to serve on the Erin's Law Task Force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:21 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** laurie.field@ppvnh.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB930 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM\*

**HB930**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**TO:** Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** March 17, 2017; 2:55 p.m., Conference Room 229

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 930 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**We support of HB 930 – Relating to Education.** Sadly, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday. There are more than 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. This is a matter that is often kept silent and as a result if left unaddressed (most people do not even realize that this is a significant issue or that they are a victim). In almost every case, the only witnesses to this crime are the perpetrator and the victim. Perpetrators often tell the child this is a secret and no one will believe them. Children rarely report abuse and are meant to feel that the abuse was their fault. Most victims never tell anyone until several years after the abuse, if they ever tell at all.

**We feel that implementing age appropriate and child sexual abuse training immediately is the appropriate course.** We appreciate the effort in establishing a task force to “get it right”. Task forces have been formed in other states related to Erin’s Law, however, we worry about the delay in the process of ensuring that children are safe from harm. Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. We understand that we want to “get it right” and make sure we set this up properly. If that is the intent, so be it, however, the longer we delay, the more likely children will be at risk without needed supports. If we do not take strong measures to address the matters that impact child sexual abuse, this issue will continue to impact our community and will only negatively impact Hawai`i’s future, people, keiki, communities, culture, economy, reputation, commerce, and industries. Let’s put protection in place against those who take advantage of the most vulnerable, as they are the culprits and drivers of this criminal enterprise. This is cutting into the fabric of the Aloha State and is not acceptable here in Hawai`i.

The children who endure this traumatic sexual abuse have a long list of adverse issues. These issues include:

- Poor academic performance
- Dropping out of high school
- Self mutilation
- Persistent post traumatic stress disorder
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships
- Difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships
- Cognitive deficits
- Depression
- Dissociative symptoms
- Suicide

It is critical to identify these child victims early so that support can be put in place to significantly reduce

the likelihood of the long-term adverse issues and costs of the above listed items.

We support Erin's Law because it recommends:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education should be taught in grades as early as pre-Kindergarten through high school.
- Giving children the tools to speak up and seek help.
- Providing intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
- Training school staff and faculty regarding child sexual abuse prevention and the handling of sexual abuse disclosures.

Erin's Law leverages the relationship between schools and the child. Schools are primary connections to our communities that also share strong relationships with our parents and keiki. It would only be natural that we take advantage of those trusting relationships to provide the services they need and further benefit from. The teachers who spend time with the students on a daily basis should be able to recognize signs of unhealthy influence and link resources to their families. **Students may also feel more comfortable talking with a trusted teacher than their own caring parents due to the complicated circumstances that could exist.** School personnel should no longer wonder out of suspicion or feel hopeless in attempts to help students in need. We strongly believe our time should be invested in direct action in order to provide students with the services they need, before they are further affected by the negative impacts of sexual abuse. 26 States have passed Erin's Law, 17 states have introduced it, and 7 are still in process. Let's move to pass this law. We support the intent of this bill but would like to see Erin's Law implemented immediately.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 930**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



Imanaka Asato  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

March 17, 2017

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017

**RE: HB 930 Relating to Education**  
**Hearing date: March 17, 2017, 2:55 pm**

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs (the "Alliance"). The Alliance supports HB 930, which seeks to create and appropriate funds for an Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention. The bill further requires the task force to report recommendations to the legislature for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula.

The Alliance is made up of Boys and Girls clubs in 30 neighborhoods and communities on four islands, and serves over 26,000 kids statewide. The safety of our members is a top priority, and therefore, many clubs offer and implement a variety of abuse prevention programs and prevention education for club youth.

The Alliance would recommend expanding the focus of the Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students "*and students in community based and after school and summer prevention programs*" about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention. Further, the Alliance proposes the addition of a community based non-profit after school provider as a task force member. This additional task force member could share information on the safety measures, best practices and prevention based education currently utilized within after school programs.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure and submit comments.

Sincerely,

IMANAKA ASATO LLLC

Kim W. Yoshimoto



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**TESTIMONY — HB930, Relating to Education**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017**

**Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director**

**POSITION: SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS**

Honorable Chair Kidani and committee members,

Hawai'i is home to over 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments, with the average age a victim is first exploited being only 13-years-old. We are also a target for "cybertrafficking," with over 110,000 ads for local prostitution posted online each year. Yet, the numbers fail to fully capture the human toll of the commercial sex trade, a tragedy we witness each day in the eyes of the survivors we serve.

UNITE is an educational nonprofit devoted to ending sex trafficking in Hawai'i, created by Miss Hawai'i 2015 Jeanné Kapela. Through outreach and awareness in local schools, we provide students with the skills necessary to prevent exploitation by building healthy relationships and learning communities. Our program, "It Ends With Us," explains how trafficking works in the 21st Century, preparing students to recognize threatening situations and respond to potential abuse. To date, we have provided anti-trafficking education to thousands of keiki in our state's public schools. Working with UNITE's strategic partner, IMUAlliance, we have also helped to emancipate sex trafficking victims from local brothels in the Ala Moana area. For both victims who self-identify at schools we visit and those for whom we've provided direct intervention services, sexual abuse is often noted as a precursor to sex trafficking.

Thus, sexual abuse and sex trafficking are closely related. Yet, they are not the same. While sexual abuse involves forcing undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another, sex trafficking is the compulsion of a person into prostitution by force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers often use intermediate and high school students to build their fortunes, preying upon teenage insecurities, sexual impulses, socioeconomic



impoverishment, and, more recently, social media access to recruit, groom, and “break in” our youth for the sex trade. Victims of sex trafficking are highly traumatized to the point that they lose their sense of identity, sometimes becoming so dehumanized that they can no longer understand the concept of rape. Moreover, modern technology has made it easier to reach and threaten victims, as information is readily available on the internet. Online technology can also be weaponized to humiliate individuals through the rapid distribution of nonconsensual pornography.

We are thankful that this bill includes sex trafficking prevention education as a concept for review by the task force. UNITE employs a standards-based anti-trafficking curriculum that includes a post assessment and service learning component. At each school we visit, students have identified themselves or their peers as in danger or in the midst of being trafficked. Our model is under constant revision to maximize compliance with best educational practices and newly enacted education policies, and is overseen by professional educators and education specialists. We are currently reviewing its comportment with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. To ensure that the task force hears the strategies of advocates working to end commercial sexual exploitation and, more importantly, survivors of this horrible crime, we request that the executive director of a sex trafficking victim services provider that provides educational programming, like UNITE or our strategic partner IMUAlliance, be added to the task force’s membership.

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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** doug@shipmanlawhilo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB930 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM

**HB930**

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Although I am testifying on my own behalf, as a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island, I can see how this task force could have a dramatic impact on helping all youth service organizations align their efforts to make children safe in our state. I support the passage of HB930. Mahalo. Doug Adams Hilo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Although I am testifying on my own behalf, as a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island, I can see how this task force could have a dramatic impact on helping all youth service organizations align their efforts to make children safe in our state. I support the passage of HB930. Mahalo. Doug Adams Hilo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:00 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** ramizusawa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB930 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM\*

**HB930**

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senate Committee on Education  
Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

RE: HB930

Friday, March 17, 2017 at 2:55pm  
Conference room 229

Aloha Chairperson Michelle Kidani and Vice Chairperson Kaiali'i Kahele,

**Approximately 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before the age of 18** (Finkelhor, Hotaling, Lewis, and Smith, 1990)

My name is Dawn Tawata and this is my written testimony in **support** of HB930. I am testifying as a parent, a graduate student in social work, an advocate for marginalized and at-risk youth, and as a service provider of children and adolescents who experienced intrafamilial sexual abuse.

**93% of child sex abuse victims know their perpetrator.** (Department of Justice, 2000)

When passed, this Act will allow our state to form a task force whose main goal would be to provide best practice child sex abuse prevention to our children. It is not enough to teach our keiki about "stranger danger" as most sexual abuse is committed by someone the child knows.

There has been a plethora of current research of the consequences of ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) including disruptive neurodevelopment; social, emotional, and cognitive impairment; adoption of health-risk behaviors; disease, disability and social problems; and an early death (Felitti, Anda, Nordenberg, et al, 1998). This Act will be instrumental in preventing ACE's and in providing timely support and protection when a child does disclose.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Dawn Tawata

## References

Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sex Offenses and Offenders (1997).

Felitti, V., Anda, R., Nordenburg, D., Williason, D., Spitz, A., Edwards, V, Koss, M., and Marks, J. (1998). Relationship of child abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14:4, 245-258.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G., Lewis, I., & Smith, C. (1990). Sexual abuse in a national survey of adult men and women: Prevalence, characteristics, and risk factors. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 14(1), 19-28.

## EDU Testimony

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**From:** doug@shipmanlawhilo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for HB 930

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I urge your support for HB930 (Erin's Law Task Force). Although I am testifying on my own behalf, as a board director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island, I can see how this effort will help align efforts by organizations and individuals engaged in youth service activities to help keep our children safe in our state. This is an area of significant need and this bill will help answer that need. Mahalo for your consideration.

respectfully,  
Doug Adams  
Hilo

Senate Committee on Education  
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Hon. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2017, 2:55 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Leora Sauer-Sagiv  
MSW Candidate  
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work  
University of Hawai'i

Re: HB 930; Relating to funding for Erin's Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse, sex trafficking prevention, and establish a sex abuse prevention program for public schools.

Aloha, my name is Leora Sauer-Sagiv. I am a third year master's student from the University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and I am testifying in support of HB 930.

I currently work at a day treatment facility with youth, who suffer from a mental illness, and require weekly inpatient or outpatient therapy, as well as additional support services. A majority of my clientele have been victims of sexual abuse and/or sex trafficking. Through my direct work experience with clients, I have come to identify a variety of challenges youth face in regards to getting involved in unhealthy relationships, as well as becoming a prime target for involvement in the sex trade. Overall, for the adolescent population there is a lack of awareness and understanding of what constitutes as an abusive relationship and how to identify warning signs of a potential predator. For many adolescents their lack of awareness stems from having experienced abuse in the home and have come to normalize this type of behavior. In addition, many of the clients I have been in direct contact with have incurred some of their accompanying psychiatric symptoms as a result of witnessing or experiencing abuse, especially those who have been diagnosed with depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and borderline personality disorder. As a result, many adolescents turn to social media for support and refuge by seeking out chat rooms or dating applications. However, this is where the cycle begins again with these vulnerable youth who fall victim to these coercive and manipulative predators.

I believe this bill has the capability to improve the lives of victims, families, and educators by establishing a multidisciplinary team who will provide supplementary support and education for both public school students and their parents. More specifically, HB 930 has the potential to reduce the rates of child sexual abuse by providing the necessary tools and knowledge that will increase prevention efforts, as well as encourage children and families to report cases of both child abuse and sex trafficking.



Mahalo for your time and consideration,  
Leora Sauer-Sagiv  
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(808) 282-7784