



**Homeland
Security**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
HB 571

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) fully supports HB 571. Based on the experience of HSI Special Agents who investigate Child Exploitation crimes, these childlike sex dolls are indicative of an individual's desire to sexually abuse a live child if given the opportunity. These dolls are not harm reduction strategies for pedophiles and are not preventing abuse. This has been demonstrated on multiple occasions when suspects have been found in possession of not only the child-like sex doll, but also online child sexual exploitation material. Suspects found to possess these dolls have also been known to sexually abuse live children.

Michael Bourke, Ph.D. for the United States Marshals Service, who worked with sex offenders for a decade in the federal prison system, says this about using dolls as substitutes for real child victims stated:

"These dolls make the sexual fantasies of pedophiles more real. And making their fantasies more real is precisely what we want to avoid. We do not want them to reach the point where they become habituated to their dolls. The child sex dolls reinforce and increase the longing and desire to abuse children, and because the dolls are only a substitute for what the offender truly wants, they are likely to "push" offenders down the road toward acting out with a real child."

At a national level, HSI is aware of the large amount of illegal importation of childlike sex dolls, most of which are imported from China and enter the United States commerce via the State of Hawaii. Hawaii would join only a handful of other states who have already outlawed childlike sex dolls. Prohibiting these items in the State of Hawaii not only prevents obscene visual representation of the sexual abuse of children, more importantly, it will protect the public from predatory sex offenders across the nation.

Respectfully,

John F. Tobon
Special Agent in Charge

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Thirty-first State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawai'i

February 4, 2021

RE: H.B. 571; RELATING TO CHILDLIKE SEX DOLLS.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 571.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the importation, sale or possession of childlike sex dolls. While the Department has not yet come across any of these dolls, it is quite possible that they have been coming into or through Hawaii undetected, as they are not yet prohibited.

Given the strong likelihood for these dolls to be used to reinforce pedophilic thoughts, or to groom potential child victims, the Department strongly agrees that these objects present a serious risk to public safety and should be prohibited. If the Committee passes this bill, there may be places where specific language could be improved upon, such as amending “sexual stimulation or gratification” to “sexual stimulation, gratification, or perversion,” to mirror language from the definition of “sexual conduct,” in Section 712-1210, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

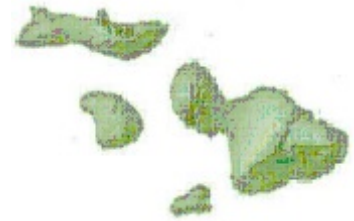
For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 571. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Acting Prosecuting Attorney

MICHAEL S. KAGAMI
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA
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TESTIMONY
ON
H.B. 571 - RELATING TO
CHILDLIKE SEX DOLLS

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson
Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments concerning H.B. 571, Relating to Childlike Sex Dolls. Specifically, we would like to express our strong support for H.B. 571, which would prohibit the importation, sale or possession of childlike sex dolls.

We strongly believe that the availability of childlike sex dolls for purchase directly encourages the exploitation, objectification, abuse and sexual assault of minors. We also believe that the possession and use of these dolls tends to reinforce the pedophilic behaviors and urges that eventually culminate in the victimization of children. In our view, there is no legitimate reason why anyone in the State of Hawai'i should be allowed to import, sell or possess a doll that is designed to simulate a child and is intended to be used for sexual stimulation or gratification. Even if there were such a reason, the risk that the doll's usage could eventually result in the sexual assault of a child far outweighs any potential benefits.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui strongly supports the passage of H.B. 571. Please feel free to contact our office at (808) 270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE RP-KK

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
and Members
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 571, Relating to Childlike Sex Dolls

I am Randall Platt, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 571, Relating to Childlike Sex Dolls.


Sexual abuse and assault of children are among the most heinous of crimes. The HPD supports the efforts of the legislators to protect the children of Hawaii, one of our most vulnerable population, from sexual predators.

The HPD appreciates the committee's consideration of these concerns and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police


Randall Platt, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

HB-571

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 3:35:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Tada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.