MICHAEL P. VICTORINO M ayor

ANDREW H. MARTIN Prosecuting Attorney

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MAUI 150 SOUTH HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793 PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

TESTIMONY ON S.B. 834 SD1 RELATING TO CHILDLIKE SEX DOLLS

March 23, 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 S.B. 834 SD1, Relating to Childlike Sex Dolls. Specifically, we would like to express our strong support for S.B. 834 SD1, 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 may 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 <u>strongly</u> <u>supports the passage of S.B. 834 SD1</u>. 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.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

STEPHEN L. FRYE FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 834 SD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A FELONY OFFENSE OF IMPORTATION, SALE, OR POSSESSION OF A CHILDLIKE SEX DOLL

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Honorable Chair Johanson, Honorable Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 834 SD1

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the importation, sale, or possession of childlike sex dolls. Our Office agrees "that the widespread availability of childlike sex dolls enables the exploitation, objectification, abuse, and sexual assault of minors."

Our Office believes that these childlike sex dolls pose a significant risk to children and public safety necessitating the prohibition of its importation, sale, or possession. Our Office also agrees with the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office to enhance the penalty from a class C felony to class B felony offense, when a person is found to be in possession of five or more childlike sex dolls.

The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, remains committed to protecting our keiki and seeking the pursuit of justice with integrity and commitment. For the foregoing reasons, our Office, supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 834 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **RP-KK**

March 24, 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: Senate Bill No. 834, S.D. 1, Relating to Childlike Sex Dolls

I am Randall Platt, Captain of District 4 of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 834, S.D. 1, 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 (who are among the most vulnerable in society) from sexual predators.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 834, S.D. 1, Relating to Childlike Sex Dolls. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

milard

Susan Ballard Chief of Police

Sincerely,

Randall Platt, Captain **District 4**

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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STEVEN S. ALM PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THOMAS J. BRADY FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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

March 24, 2021

RE: S.B. 834, S.D. 1; 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 <u>support</u> of S.B. 834, S.D. 1.

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. The Department is unclear why the bill requires ten of these objects before the offense increases to a class B felony. If possible, we would recommend lowering that number—perhaps to five or possibly less—because ten is a relatively large number, and possession of even five of these objects seems to indicate an intent to disseminate, rather than for personal use.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu <u>supports</u> the passage of S.B. 834, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



March 23, 2021

Testimony in support of: SB834

Submitted by: Ho'ōla Nā Pua

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Honorable Members,

Ho'ōla Nā Pua is in support of the Act to establish the felony offense of the importation, sale, or possession of a childlike sex doll.

It has been studied and documented that routine interactions with a childlike sex doll are more likely to reinforce deviant behavior and pedophilic urges. Those regular pedophilic thoughts and urges contribute to greater chance of eventual contact with actual children. Childlike sex dolls normalize the demand for pedophilic paraphilia and develops a clientele of those who may contribute to child trafficking.

In other countries, it has already been established that there is direct link between owning these childlike sex dolls and committing other offenses involving harming children. Many other state legislators have already implemented laws that impose penalties for selling and possessing childlike sex dolls.

Furthermore, allowing pedophilic paraphilia into our markets with a legal backing tarnishes the integrity of our trade industry. It should also be noted that the economic impact of banning childlike sex dolls would be negligible due to its thankfully small, niche market.

It is important that Hawaii's state legislators establish that there is no tolerance for pseudo-pedophilic behaviors and deter those who engage in such actions. Ho'ōla Nā Pua urges the committee to support SB834 to effectively take a stance against pedophilic paraphilia.

Respectfully, Ho'ōla Nā Pua



We are committed to the prevention of sex trafficking and providing care for children who have been exploited.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Hoʻōla Nā Pua P.O. Box 22551, Honolulu, HI 96823 808.445.3131 hoolanapua.org

<u>SB-834-SD-1</u>

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 2:02:41 PM Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce. I humbly ask for your support for this measure to keep the children of our community safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter

<u>SB-834-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/22/2021 3:53:05 PM Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Anyone who does not support this Bill should be lock UP!

<u>SB-834-SD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/23/2021 12:19:47 PM Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

<u>SB-834-SD-1</u>

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 6:48:23 PM Testimony for CPC on 3/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted	By Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Croze	er Individual	Support	No

Comments:

OMG, what will they think of next? It's crazy that we need laws to stop this sort of thing. Where has people's sense of decency gone? People will produce what people will buy!

Samantha Mason

Testimony of

Samantha Mason Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Before the Hawaii House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce on SB834 SD1

SUPPORT

March 24, 2021

Aloha Chairman Johanson, Vice Chairman Kitagawa, and members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee,

My name is Samantha Mason, and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am not speaking on behalf of an organization but on behalf of myself, the people of Hawaii, and our future generations. There are unfortunate dark and disturbing shadows that exist on our beautiful islands; dark shadows consisting of pedophilia, child sex abuse, and child sex trafficking. Many people fail to realize that these problems exist on our islands, as it's hard to imagine a place of paradise being filled with such evil. It has now begun to feel like every week we hear about a different local story related to the abuse of children. These heartbreaking stories have left many local residents with the desire to do something but confused about where to start. That is why this bill is important as it allows for us as a community to take a step closer to eradicating the evil that destroys the lives of our keiki and families.

One must ask themselves who the consumers of these types of products really are? One must also ask themselves who these dolls are being modeled after? What if there was a doll created that looked like your child? Can you imagine the pain and disgust you would feel? That pain and disgust were what one mother had to endure when she encountered an advertisement on Facebook for a sex doll that exactly resembled her daughter. This is something that no parent should ever have to experience. These dolls are not preventative measures to stopping child sex abuse but instead, these dolls are a stepping stone to interactions with real children. Glen Pounder who is the chief operating officer of The Child Rescue Coalition stated "They want a reaction from a real child. I know from law enforcement colleagues of cases where a suspect was brought in a child who didn't live with them. They [had] pictures of [the child] in his house, and they had a child sex doll. [They] would put pictures of the real child next to the child sex doll, and when they couldn't rape the real child, they were doing the same with the child sex doll and, honestly, looking forward to the next time they could bring the child," Pounder said. "Because I know of cases [like these], I don't have any doubt there is a correlation between [ownership of] child sex dolls and the risk to a real child being raped." Children are our most vulnerable population and they need us to stand up for them. We need to take control now.

Hawaii House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce I urge you to support Senate Bill 834 SD1 as it's extremely important that we set an example as a state that we will not allow for the stepping stone of pedophilia, child sex abuse, and child sex trafficking to be tolerated.

Mahalo for your consideration.

*Information was provided from <u>https://redwoodbark.org/62029/culture/promoting-or-preventing-pedophilia-a-look-into-child-sex-dolls-in-the-us/#:~:text=In%20every%20state%20but%20Tennessee,childlike%20sex%20dolls%20without%20ramification.</u>