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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirty-first State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai'i

January 27, 2022

RE: S.B. 1347; RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 1347.

The purpose of S.B. 1347 is to require training--regarding sex trafficking prevention--for various personnel within the Department of Education. By equipping our school staff and faculty to better identify and understand sex trafficking and sexual violence, they ultimately become better guides to assist and empower Hawaii's students. The proposed training would include strategies for identification and prevention, trauma-informed responses to victims, and information about available resources and service providers for victims.

The Department strongly agrees that commercial sexual exploitation of children ("CSEC") is a dire problem in Hawaii, which could be better addressed by increased awareness and training within our State's various agencies. While the Department defers to our local educators and community advocates regarding the specific details of the training program, we do welcome any opportunity for discussion or participation in multiagency efforts to address this serious problem. Our Department also has victim witness counselors who specialize in assisting victims of sex trafficking or CSEC, who are available to provide input as needed.

For all the reasons above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of S.B. 1347. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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

Date: 01/27/2022

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: Via Videoconference

Committee: Senate Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1347 RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 1347 and is a staunch advocate of preventing sexual exploitation and sex trafficking through our work with state partners and community organizations. As the Department already provides training and resources for sex trafficking prevention and response, we do not feel that legislation is necessary at this time.

The purpose of the bill is aligned with the Department's existing efforts to disseminate information about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention and provide training that supports the health and welfare of all students.

Currently, the Department collaborates with the Susannah Wesley Community Center, Pacific Survivor Center, and Ho Ola Na Pua to deliver sex trafficking prevention and response education, resources, activities, strategies and workshops to students, faculty, complex area staff, and school communities. Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) training/programming has been delivered at numerous middle/intermediate and high schools, complex areas and district offices throughout the state with the goal of delivering training and programming to all middle/intermediate and high schools. Although in-person program delivery has been disrupted as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, virtual programming continues to grow.

The Hawaii State Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Program Development Office offers training to Department schools regarding mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse in addition to the Department's mandatory reporter training at the beginning of each school year.

Additionally, the Department participates in the Sexual Violence Prevention working group, a public/private sector group of community and child-serving organizations, which convened to discuss issues around sexual violence prevention in Department school communities.

This group includes membership from the following organizations:

- Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center;
- Pacific Survivor Center;
- Young Women's Christian Association;
- Hawaii Youth Services Network;
- Catholic Charities Hawaii;
- Hawaii State Department of Health;
- Hawaii State Department of Human Services; and
- Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General.

These agencies offer developmentally appropriate sexual violence prevention resources which may include information, counseling, consultation services, educational sessions, training and workshops for students, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Department staff, and the community. The working group developed an online resource repository, "Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Schools," that is easily accessible and houses sexual violence prevention resources and supports for schools and school communities (<https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/hidoe-svp>).

The Department is also a member of the Hawaii State Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee, Interagency Advisory Council, The Hawaii Children's Trust Fund and numerous other groups focused on child safety. The Department remains committed to its ongoing collaborative partnerships to provide sex trafficking prevention and response training to employees and does not feel legislation is necessary to accomplish this goal. With the restoration of the funding for positions and basic services that were reduced for fiscal year 2023 due to the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the stabilization of funding, the Department will continue to enhance its work in ensuring the safety and well-being of all students.

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

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

January 24, 2022

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1347 RELATED TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, support SB 1347 Related to Sex Trafficking Prevention.

At the 2022, Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, training for teachers on sex trafficking prevention and recognition was one of the top five recommendations for legislative action.

Youth and young adults are targeted for recruitment into sexual exploitation, including prostitution, exotic massage, erotic dancing, and more. Young people are enticed with through seduction, promises of easy work for big pay, and even sold to pimps by family members.

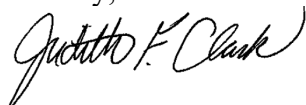
When children and youth have problems, teachers and other school personnel are often the trusted adults to whom they turn for help. School personnel are the number one reporters of child abuse and neglect according to the Hawaii Dept. of Human Services.

Teachers need training to recognize signs of sexual exploitation and know how to respond appropriately.

Please honor the voice of Hawaii's youth by addressing their concerns about sex trafficking.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

TESTIMONY

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

RE: SB1347 to be heard on Thursday January 27, at 9:30AM by video conference

Oppose

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Unless a training proposal has been offered to the DOE, and they have refused it, there is no reason for the legislature to get involved.

If the Department of Education has not agreed to do so, one should be interested to know why. Simply drafting a long and detailed bill, about what someone outside of their department wants to force them to do, is the wrong approach.

Instead of jumping into an issue where the lay of the land is not clear could I suggest allowing the process, I and others are currently involved to move forward? Our steering committee is working to develop a coherent strategy to address problems within the sex trades. The working group includes HPD, the OPA, the Public Defender, Harm Reductionists, sex workers, transgender persons, Ho'ola Na Pua., and others. Training curricula for various groups is one of the issues being looked into now.
Could you please let us do our work!

Very Truly Yours:



Tracy Ryan
Executive Director



SB 1347, RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

JANUARY 27, 2022 · SENATE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Strong support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **strongly supports SB 1347**, relating to sex trafficking prevention, which requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

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.**

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 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 increase school-based sex trafficking prevention by requiring the DOE to

offer trauma-informed training to school staff about sexual exploitation. **The training called for by this measure could be performed by victim service providers, moreover, many of whom would gladly provide the training at no charge to the department.**

We note that the training criteria called for in section 2 of this measure are evidence-based, informed by best practices, and encapsulate key elements of trauma prevention that experts believe are important components of any modern trauma prevention program, such as the impact of trauma on different genders, sexual orientations, and racial demographics, and an emphasis on enthusiastic consent, along with strategies to provide a trauma-informed response when students are identified as being victims or at risk of exploitation. Given that school communities are often targeted by traffickers and are places in which behavioral changes caused by sexual violence in children are likely to be observed, it is critical that we provide adequate training to school personnel to ensure that our keiki are safe from sexual servitude.

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

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

27 January 2022

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Time: 09:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention

Aloha mai e Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 1347, relating to sex trafficking prevention. This measure would require the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

This bill would contribute to the education of teachers and health specialists – adults who play large roles in students’ lives – on the issue of sex trafficking and methods of prevention and response. The “Sex Trafficking in Hawai’i Executive Summary” 2020 study reports that **64% of surveyed sex trafficking victims identified as being all or part Native Hawaiian**. We believe this measure is a pivotal step to the effort to mitigate sex trafficking and abuse within not only the Native Hawaiian community, but the community of Hawai’i altogether.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individual committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB 1347.



— H a w a i i —
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Re: **SB 1347 - Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention**
Hawai'i State Capitol, via Videoconference
January 27, 2022, 9:30 AM

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keahokalole, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 1347, relating to sex trafficking prevention. This bill would require the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

At the 2021 Hawaii Children and Youth Summit,¹ the participating youth from across the state proposed and chose training for teachers on sex trafficking prevention as one of their top five recommendations for legislative action.

The youth expressed their concern that they are targeted for recruitment into sexual exploitation, and that they are often enticed with false promises or through family members.

School personnel are among the mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect in Hawaii,² but they need training to recognize signs of sexual trafficking and learn how to respond appropriately.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass SB 1347.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.hawaiicys.org/>

² <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/files/2021/03/GUIDE-FOR-MANDATED-REPORTERS-Rev.-12-2-2020-new-logo-final0021.pdf>

SB-1347

Submitted on: 1/21/2022 5:46:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Definitely support SB1347.

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



SENATE BILL 1347, RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

JANUARY 27, 2022 · SENATE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports SB 1347**, relating to sex trafficking prevention, which requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

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, Imua Alliance, a nonprofit victim service provider for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence, estimates 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. 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 increase school-based sex trafficking prevention by requiring the DOE to offer trauma-informed training to school staff about sexual exploitation. **The training called for by this measure could be performed by victim service providers, moreover, many of whom would gladly provide the training at no charge to the department.**

We note that the training criteria called for in section 2 of this measure are evidence-based, informed by best practices, and encapsulate key elements of trauma prevention that experts believe are important components of any modern trauma prevention program, such as the impact of trauma on different genders, sexual orientations, and racial demographics, and an emphasis on enthusiastic consent, along with strategies to provide a trauma-informed response when students are identified as being victims or at risk of exploitation. Given that school communities are often targeted by traffickers and are places in which behavioral changes caused by sexual violence in children are likely to be observed, it is critical that we provide adequate training to school personnel to ensure that our keiki are safe from sexual servitude.

Slavery has no place in paradise. Together, we can end exploitation on our shores.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus ·

(808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

SB-1347

Submitted on: 1/21/2022 6:28:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am truly shocked to learn that one of every eleven adult male residents of Hawaii are online sex shoppers. Please pass this important bill so that we can teach our young people how to protect themselves from the terrible enslavement of sex trafficking.

SB-1347

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 3:33:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in strong support.

SB-1347

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 4:12:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Harmony Vuycankiat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello. My name is Harmony Vuycankiat and I am a parent and community member that is testifying in support of SB1347. As a concerned mother of four children, I have done research over the past 15 years on the subject of human trafficking to stay informed for the purposes of their safety. I believe that educators are on the front line of defense and should also be well informed on the topic of human trafficking as it unfortunately affects so many of our youth today.

From human trafficking awareness and training events that I've attended both here in Hawaii and on the mainland, I've learned that it is hard to identify sex trafficking because the children themselves typically do not even understand that they've been trafficked. Secondly, I've learned that having a safe and trusted adult in a child's life (such as a teacher or coach), especially if they do not have one at home, can provide an opportunity for a child to speak up about sexual exploitation and abuse that they may be experiencing. Lastly, it's important to note that while it is hard to recognize sex trafficking survivors, there are signs and red flags that are characteristic of sex trafficking cases specific to Hawaii which can make identification easier if an individual has been properly trained on what to look for.

Stable and healthy behavioral and physical health are both important contributing factors to a child's overall learning experience. Sex trafficking is an outright attack on a young person's spiritual, mental, and physical well-being which is why teachers should be trained on this topic in order to provide students with resources and support if trafficking is suspected. It takes a village to raise a child and we want our children growing up in safe communities where they can access services to help them if they find themselves in an exploitative situation. The focused approach that has been taken by the Department of Education in years past highlighting campaigns against drug use and gun violence in our schools should also be the same approach taken on the topic of sex trafficking prevention. Educators are in a perfect position to provide students with next steps to community and provider services if they are able to look beyond the surface and see what may be going on underneath. This can only happen through mandatory specialized training on the subject of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Thank you.

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

January 25, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB1347 – RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.**

Hearing: January 27, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Education.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, revised Hawaii's child abuse definition to include cases of sex trafficking and trafficking in persons as required by the federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-22). From 6/9/2017 – 3/31/2021, DHS received 318 reports of trafficking. The majority of the human trafficking cases reported to CWS are on Oahu. The average age of the human trafficking victim is 16, and 93% of the victims are female.

DHS supports efforts to increase trafficking education and training. DHS will work with the Department of Education and community providers to continue training and outreach efforts. Since May 2017, DHS co-chaired the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Committee with the Family Court of the First Circuit. In collaboration, members have increased training in identifying and reporting suspected trafficking. With training and improved

communication, DHS and community partners successfully recovered trafficking victims with state and federal law enforcement.

During these pandemic years, DHS conducted virtual training. With additional resources, DHS will work with partners to develop on-demand training content.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

RE: SB 1347 - RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 1347** relating to sex trafficking prevention. This bill requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

Schools are, perhaps, the main 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 pre-service information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given in-service (on the job) information. While programs currently exist to train teachers and staff in handling sexual trauma that often accompanies abuse and neglect, implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important for teachers to be informed on how to prevent sexual trauma and handle related incidents on campus. At a time when the number of sex trafficking victims being identified in our state's childcare and education systems is on the rise, sex abuse prevention lessons are especially crucial to combat student exploitation and effectively implement new protocols coordinated by the Hawaii Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare System, and Family Courts.

Sex trafficking is differentially defined as the use of "force, fraud, or coercion" to 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



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President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

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 heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also 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 related crime of sex trafficking and provide educators with the tools needed to provide trauma-informed care in their classrooms.

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

LATE



TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

DATE/LOCATION: January 27, 2022; 9:30 a.m., Video Conference

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1347 WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENTS—RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

We support SB 1347 which requires the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

We thank the legislature for recognizing that sex trafficking education is necessary. Schools have regular, consistent contact with students and have been and will continue to be the primary identifiers and reporters of ill treatment related to our youth. They are also sources of safety, trust, respite and resources for many of our students and families. While these trainings do exist in select schools, they happen inconsistently throughout our statewide school system. Regular and consistent trainings will provide trusted adults with the tools they need to best support our youth.

We also feel strongly that training for school staff should also include age-appropriate sexual abuse education for students, staff and parents as described in SB 2141. There are willing community partners who already conduct sex trafficking and sexual abuse prevention and response trainings who stand ready to support our children, school staff and parents. The minimal time that in-service trainings like these will take will yield a HUGE return on investment in the form of respecting and protecting our keiki.

The pandemic has exacerbated the many cracks that already exist within our communities. The experience of lockdowns, school closures and social disconnectedness threaten to deepen the wounds of existing issues like child abuse, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking. As we all know, children and youth who endure traumatic sexual abuse and/or

exploitation have a long list of adverse issues including poor academic performance, dropping out of high school, self-harm, persistent post-traumatic stress disorder, drug and alcohol abuse, increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships, difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships, depression, dissociative symptoms and more. We realize that a large focus of our schools will be placed on closing the learning gaps and addressing learning loss from the pandemic, however our children WILL NOT be ready to learn if they are dealing with the social and emotional stress of maltreatment.

We feel that implementing child sexual abuse and sex trafficking training in schools immediately is the appropriate course and should be made available to not only staff but students and parents as well. Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot continue to sit back and allow this to happen to our keiki. If we do not take strong measures to address the matters that impact child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, these issues 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 protections in place to increase knowledge by implementing trainings in schools to combat against those who take advantage of the most vulnerable and protect our keiki. This is cutting into the fabric of the Aloha State and is not acceptable here in Hawai`i.

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 under-resourced families. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community strengthening programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **SB 1347**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

LATE

SB-1347

Submitted on: 1/27/2022 9:46:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
STEFANIE Y SAKAMOTO	Testifying for Sex Abuse Treatment Center	Support	No

Comments:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii is in support of this measure.