

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

LATE

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

Date: 03/17/2016

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 329

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HR 025 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully suggests that HR 25 is not necessary. The Department has been supportive and prefers the language proposed in HB 1787 HD2 with particular regard to the committee's composition that includes an elementary school principal and a secondary school principal. Further, the superintendent may appoint a designee to represent the Department.

Should HR 25 pass, we respectfully request consideration for an appropriation towards supporting the foundational work and administrative support for a two year task force, as proposed in this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 16, 2016

TO: Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: HR 25
Hearing Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

Purpose of Bill: REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S
LAW TASK FORCE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports the intent of this measure and its commitment to addressing the safety and well-being of students (pre-kindergarten to grade twelve) in the prevention of sexual abuse. For the purpose of addressing age appropriate curricula and developmentally appropriate practice in pre-kindergarten settings, EOEL respectfully suggests that the director of EOEL, or the director's designee, should be a part of the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Edward Thompson, III

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Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:55 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR25 on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM

Categories: Purple Category

HR25

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members, We are in strong support of this resolution to establish a task force to make recommendations regarding Erin's Law. We look forward to the time when a bill will pass making us the 27th state to protect victims. This link is worth a look: <http://www.erinmerryn.net/erins-law.html> Mahalo, Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

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kobayashi2-Jessi

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To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of H.R. 25, and requesting an amendment

Dear Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support for and offers amendments to H.R. 25, requesting the establishment of an Erin’s Law Task Force.

In short, we respectfully request that the CEO, or the CEO’s designee of our sister affiliate, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands, be added as a member of the task force. Their experience working with the Department of Education (“DOE”) to implement a sexual health education program pursuant to BOE policy 103.5 and their knowledge of that program will greatly benefit the task force in its development of a sexual abuse prevention program, as these programs may overlap in some areas. For example, Policy 103.5 requires sexual health education programs to help students “develop relationships and communication skills to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion and intimidation.” Including on the the task force members who are knowledgeable and experienced with the sexual health education program will ensure that both programs complement each other going forward and better ensure that youth have the skills and tools to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director and Public Affairs Manager

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

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

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

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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, 2016

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 25 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HR 25 Requesting the Establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force.

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 our school bus driver. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more before the school finally found out about it. When we were questioned about it, we believed that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

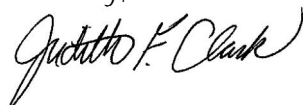
If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

No child deserves sexual abuse, and prevention education in the schools is a powerful tool to prevent it.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

kobayashi2-Jessi

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HR25

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 16, 2016

To: Committee on Human Services
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Mahealani Austin

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Location: Conference Room 329

SUBJECT: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HR 25 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Mahealani Austin and I am a student in the School of Social Work at UH Mānoa. I am testifying in **favor of HR 25** Requesting The Establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force.

I **strongly support** this bill for the following reasons:

- As an adult survivor of childhood sexual abuse, I have experienced first hand how devastating it can be for a child to be violated, manipulated, betrayed, and robbed of pure innocence, joy, and happiness. Two of the three men were my uncles, and one a family friend. I knew that it was wrong to be inappropriately touched but I didn't know what to do. When I told my mom about it she too didn't know what to do.
- I believe that sexual abuse prevention education in schools will help protect and empower our children. It will create a sense of normalcy amongst our children to protect their private parts and to tell someone if they are ever violated. It will also equip teachers and counselors with the necessary tools and training to effectively help children and families of all ethnic cultures and backgrounds.
- According to the statistics on Erin's Law website:
 - 1 in 4 girls, 6 boys are sexually assaulted before age 18. Over 90% by someone they already know and trust.
 - 1 in 10 sexually abused children tell someone.

These statistics break my heart. I strongly urge you to examine HR 25 further and hope that it will pass for the sake of our children and their future. Together, let us make Hawai'i the 27th state to establish Erin's Law. Mahalo for your time and once again for the opportunity to testify.

March 15, 2016

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

From: Saige Manatad Kamano
Email: saigem@hawaii.edu

Hearing Date: March 17, 2016
Location: Conference Room 329
Time: 9:00 A.M.

Subject: SUPPORT for House Resolution 25, relating to Erin's Law Task Force
Measure Title: REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE

I am currently a student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus and I am in **strong support of House Resolution 25** (HR 25). HR 25 provides sexual abuse education and prevention programs in schools public schools around Hawai'i.

This bill is crucial for our keiki's safety and well-being within our public school systems. Students should be well equipped with the necessary resources and education that will allow them to become more aware and less vulnerable to sexual abuse. This program will provide children, adolescents and teens an outlet and build confidence if/when dealing with sexual abuse. This topic is traditionally culturally sensitive, but with public awareness and implementation, our communities will be better informed in keeping our children protected.

HR 25, if passed, will allow our keiki to recognize, report, and react to abusive relationships as they will have the crucial knowledge base that will allow them to be strong advocates in their communities. I strongly encourage you to further examine this bill and I thank you for your time.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:06 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: cmiram@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR25 on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM
Attachments: Testimony Letter to Legislature HR25 - Google Docs.webarchive

HR25

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

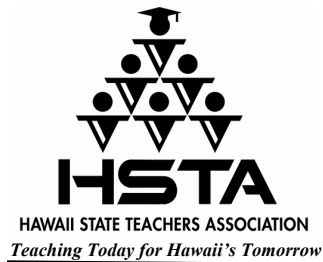
Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Miram	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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LATE

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

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Justin Hughey
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Amy Perruso
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Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SERVICES

RE: HR 25 - REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK
FORCE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HR 25**, requesting the establishment of an Erin's Law task force, **with suggested amendments**.

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 the Hawaii State Teachers Association to the task force** to ensure that the classroom experience and teacher-student dynamic are given adequate representation.

We additionally hope that you will consider **extending this resolution to cover 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. While the resolution current covers sexual abuse, sex trafficking is differentially defined 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 resolution.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

LATE

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Dr. Travis Hong
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Wendy Correa

Address

850 Richards Street
Suite 201
Honolulu, HI
96813

P: (808) 531-5502

March 17, 2016

To: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HR 25 – Requesting the Establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force –
Support**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, March 17, 2016, 9 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HR 25 – Requesting the Establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force.

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

This resolution requests the appointment of 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.

Twenty-six states have enacted a model of "Erin's Law," named after a child abuse victim in Illinois, that requires all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- Students in grades pre-K – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult;
- School personnel all about child sexual abuse;

- Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. It's critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from being prey to child sexual abuse.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to pass this resolution.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

LATE

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

Date: 03/17/2016
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HR 025 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

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Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



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1390 Miller Street, Room 303
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March 16, 2016

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House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: HR 25
Hearing Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

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Sincerely,
Laurie Field
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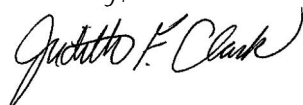
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March 16, 2016

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Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Mahealani Austin

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Location: Conference Room 329

SUBJECT: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HR 25 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Mahealani Austin and I am a student in the School of Social Work at UH Mānoa. I am testifying in **favor of HR 25** Requesting The Establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force.

I **strongly support** this bill for the following reasons:

- As an adult survivor of childhood sexual abuse, I have experienced first hand how devastating it can be for a child to be violated, manipulated, betrayed, and robbed of pure innocence, joy, and happiness. Two of the three men were my uncles, and one a family friend. I knew that it was wrong to be inappropriately touched but I didn't know what to do. When I told my mom about it she too didn't know what to do.
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House Committee on Human Services

From: Saige Manatad Kamano
Email: saigem@hawaii.edu

Hearing Date: March 17, 2016
Location: Conference Room 329
Time: 9:00 A.M.

Subject: SUPPORT for House Resolution 25, relating to Erin's Law Task Force
Measure Title: REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE

I am currently a student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus and I am in **strong support of House Resolution 25** (HR 25). HR 25 provides sexual abuse education and prevention programs in schools public schools around Hawai'i.

This bill is crucial for our keiki's safety and well-being within our public school systems. Students should be well equipped with the necessary resources and education that will allow them to become more aware and less vulnerable to sexual abuse. This program will provide children, adolescents and teens an outlet and build confidence if/when dealing with sexual abuse. This topic is traditionally culturally sensitive, but with public awareness and implementation, our communities will be better informed in keeping our children protected.

HR 25, if passed, will allow our keiki to recognize, report, and react to abusive relationships as they will have the crucial knowledge base that will allow them to be strong advocates in their communities. I strongly encourage you to further examine this bill and I thank you for your time.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:06 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: cmiram@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR25 on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM
Attachments: Testimony Letter to Legislature HR25 - Google Docs.webarchive

HR25

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Miram	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION 25, REQUESTING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.**

**House Committee on Human Services
Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2016, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

Honorable Chair Morikawa and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of HR 25, requesting the establishment of an Erin's Law task force.

IMUAlliance is one of Hawai'i's leading providers of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. Victims are typically induced into exploitation between the ages of 12-14, years of heightened developmental vulnerability, and are often predisposed to exploitation by a complex traumatic history that may include child abuse or neglect, assault, sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, and bullying.

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 can include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorder, explosive outbursts, self-injurious and suicidal behavior, and hyper-sexualization.

That said, **we ask that sex trafficking be explicitly included as a point of task force consideration**. Sex trafficking is, essentially, a commercialized form of sexual abuse. Moreover, the sex trade is growing on our islands, which are home

to an estimated 150 brothels and and 110,000 online ads for local prostitution each year. We humbly suggest consideration of the following language to enact our requested amendment under subsection (4) of the resolution (page 3, line 26): **“(L) Strategies to identify victims of sex trafficking in public schools and to assist in the prevention of the sex trafficking of children.”**

We additionally **ask that this resolution be amended to include a public school teacher as part of the task force**, since teachers facilitate educational programming and curricula, while managing student response and intervention frameworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

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

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DATE: March 17, 2016

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

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

RE: Testimony Supporting the Intent of H.R. 25
Requesting the Establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force

Good morning Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports the intent of H.R. 25, which would request that the Department of Education establish a 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.

Although we support and appreciate this measure's intent, we respectfully note our preference for two bills (H.B. 1787 and S.B. 2232) that are also currently being considered by the Legislature as the primary vehicles for the establishment of the requested task force. These comparable measures have each had the benefit of being heard by several House and Senate Committees and the amendment process.

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 2014, of the 637 victims who sought care for the first time at SATC, 51% 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.

Through a contract with the State Department of Health (DOH), SATC currently delivers training to teachers, counselors and school administrators on a series of age-appropriate, evidence-based curricula for sexual abuse prevention education. Each of the four curricula, designed for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd grade through 5th grade, middle school, and high school, 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 all are DOE-approved to fulfill existing health education requirements.

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 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.

A taskforce is necessary to provide the State of Hawai'i the means to design, plan and implement a strong, sustainable program to consistently make sexual abuse prevention education available to all public school students. This would 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.

Therefore, we support and appreciate the intent of H.R. 25, but respectfully note our preference for the continued consideration of the bill versions of this measure, H.B. 1787 and S.B. 2232.