



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

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DATE: February 4, 2016

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

RE: Testimony Supporting the Intent of S.B. 2203
Relating to Sexual Assault Victims

Good afternoon Chairs Chun Oakland and Baker, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports the intent of S.B. 2203 to ensure that forensic examinations for sexual assault victims are financially covered in the State of Hawai'i.

We respectfully submit the following comments on the medical forensic services currently provided on O'ahu through SATC, and how those services are financially covered at present with no cost to the patient.

On O'ahu, medical forensic services are delivered to female and male victims of sexual assault by a 24/7 SATC team of physicians and crisis workers trained to respond to the victims' immediate needs.

The SATC forensic exam incorporates a comprehensive medical evaluation, collection of legal evidence, and testing, prophylaxis, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDs, and pregnancy. The SATC crisis worker is present during the exam to provide support to the victim and address any concerns or questions he or she may have regarding the sexual assault.

The forensic exams provided to sexual assault victims at SATC are currently fully covered through a combination of resources, including City and County of Honolulu funds through the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, support from Kapi'olani Medical Center, and fee for service reimbursement by DHS. The crisis counseling provided to

victims by crisis workers during the forensic exam is supported by state General Funds through the Department of the Attorney General and by federal Victims of Crime Act funds through the Honolulu Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Reimbursement is not sought from insurance, unless assessment and treatment is needed for a severe physical injury (e.g. broken bones or head trauma). However, such services are delivered in the emergency room prior to the sexual assault forensic exam.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of these comments.