

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/24/2016

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Judiciary and Labor
Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2232, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for the Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through use of age appropriate curricula; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's Law. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2232 SD1 which establishes and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to be convened by the legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



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

February 23, 2016

TO: Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

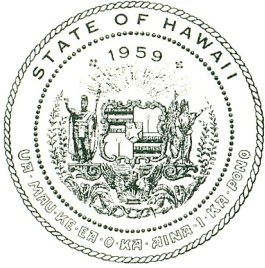
SUBJECT: SB 2232, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 211

Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for the 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. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's Law. (SD1)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports the intent of this bill and its commitment to addressing the safety and well-being of students (pre-kindergarten to grade twelve) in the prevention of sexual abuse and provides the following comments. 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 task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Cathy Betts, JD

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
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235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
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February 24, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB 2232, SD1, Relating to Education

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2232, SD1, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of SB 2232, SD1, which would mandate the implementation of a sexual abuse prevention curriculum within our Department of Education and create a taskforce to assist and guide with curriculum implementation.

Sexual abuse is a difficult subject for many people to talk about. Our educators are not immune to this difficulty. Predators of children bank on people being resistant to talking about sexual abuse. Silence about the subject allows predators to continue—when we don't know the warning signs, when our children are scared or threatened into thinking mistreatment is acceptable, when we do not raise awareness about this issue—abusers continue.

Sexual abuse prevention and education is crucial for educators and students to have. While some sexual abuse prevention education is offered to our DOE, implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Yet, children are largely at risk for sexual abuse and remain at high risk of being abused by a family friend or family member.

As a result, public school students may not receive regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education. Parents and guardians may not receive information about child sexual abuse topics; and educators and school staff may not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling disclosures and mandatory reported to child welfare.

The Commission supports SB 2232, SD1, and respectfully requests that your Committees pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 11:28 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/22/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs and members, The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in strong support of this bill. Surely no one can be opposed to preventing sex abuse of children. Surely, as my colleague has noted in previous testimony, if Texas and Alabama can pass such a law then Hawaii should be able to also.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:31 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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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

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

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

February 21, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaaran, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2232 SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2232 SD1 Relating to Education.

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).

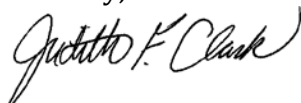
The only education I received about sexual abuse as a child was to beware of strangers. But it was not a stranger who sexually abused me and five other girls in my fourth grade class – It was my school bus driver. When someone finally reported what was going on, we thought that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have been are better able to recognize it, and more likely to report the sexual abuse when it first happened.

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

Hawaii Youth Services Network is willing to serve on the task force.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 2232 SD1 Relating to Education
DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2016
TIME: 10:00 AM
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; Senate Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Comments in support of the intent of SB2232 SD1

Chairs Tokuda and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Shimabukuro, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments in support of the intent of Senate Bill 2232 SD1, "Relating to Education." The Commission appreciates the amendment by the Committee on Education to provide for charter sector representation on a proposed work group that will address a matter affecting all public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



TO: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: February 24, 2016; 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2232, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

We support the intent of SB 2232, SD1 – Relating to Education. Sadly, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be the victim of child sexual abuse by their 18th birthday. There are more than 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse in the United States. This is a matter that is often kept silent and as a result is left unaddressed (most people do not even realize this is a significant issue or that they are a victim). In almost every case, the only witnesses to this crime are the perpetrator and the victim. Perpetrators often tell the child this is a secret and no one will believe them. Children rarely report abuse and are meant to feel that the abuse was their fault. Most victims never tell anyone until several years after the abuse, if they ever tell at all.

However, we feel that implementing child sexual abuse training immediately is the appropriate course of action versus creating a task force. Task forces have been formed in other states related to Erin's Law and it has delayed the process of ensuring that children are safe from harm. Each second we delay, a child is forever hurt and traumatized. We cannot do this to our keiki. We understand that we want to "get it right" and make sure we set this up properly. If that is the intent so be it, however, the longer we delay, the more likely children will be at risk without needed supports. If we do not take strong measures to address these matters that impact child sexual abuse, this issue 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 the emphasis on those who take advantage of the most vulnerable, as they are the culprits and drivers of this criminal enterprise. This is cutting into the fabric of the Aloha State and is not acceptable here in Hawai'i.

The children who endure this traumatic sexual abuse have a long list of adverse issues. These issues include:

- Poor academic performance
- Dropping out of high school
- Self mutilation
- Persistent post traumatic stress disorder
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Increased risk for abuse in subsequent relationships
- Difficulty in forming meaningful and trusting relationships
- Cognitive deficits
- Depression
- Dissociative symptoms
- Suicide

It is critical to identify these child victims early so that support can be put in place to significantly reduce the likelihood of the long-term adverse issues and costs of the above listed items.

We support Erin's Law because it recommends:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education should be taught in grades as early as pre-Kindergarten through high school.
- Giving children the tools to speak up and seek help.
- Providing intentional and age-appropriate programming in schools regarding child sexual abuse.
- Training school staff and faculty regarding child sexual abuse prevention and the handling of sexual abuse disclosures.

Erin's Law leverages the relationship between schools and the child. Schools are primary connections to our communities that also share strong relationships with our parents and keiki. It would only be natural that we take advantage of those trusting relationships to provide the services they need and further benefit from. The teachers who spend time with the students on a daily basis should be able to recognize signs of unhealthy influence and link resources to their families. School personnel should no longer wonder out of suspicion or feel hopeless in attempts to help students in need. We strongly believe our time should be invested in direct action in order to provide students with the services they need, before they are further affected by the negative impacts of sexual abuse. We support the intent of this bill but would like to see Erin's Law implemented immediately.

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 families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2232, SD1**, and its intent to stop and prevent child sexual abuse. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 11:56 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2232

Submitted on: 2/22/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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

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DATE: February 24, 2016

TO: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donavan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of S.B. 2232 S.D. 1
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and on Ways and Means.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.B. 2232 S.D. 1, which creates and appropriates funds for 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; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics. This measure further sets out guidelines for the program, and is modeled after similar measures that have passed in other state and territorial jurisdictions, collectively referred to as "Erin's Law."

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.

S.B. 2232 S.D. 1 is necessary to provide the State of Hawai'i the means to design and plan and implement a strong, sustainable program to consistently make sexual abuse prevention education available to all public school students.

In order to do so, this measure 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 respectfully urge you to support S.B. 2232 S.D. 1.