



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

March 11, 2016

TO: Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: SB 2232, SD2 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

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.

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.

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

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

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Honolulu, HI 96813
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March 15, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB 2232, SD2, Relating to Education

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2232, SD2, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of SB 2232, SD2, 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, SD2, and respectfully requests that your Committees pass this bill.

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

March 11, 2016

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2232 SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2232 SD2 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. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more until someone finally reported it to the school. When we were questioned about it, we believed that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

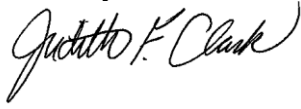
If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

No child deserves sexual abuse, and prevention education in the schools is a powerful tool to prevent it. Fortunately, Hawaii has many of the resources needed to provide education to prevent sexual abuse including an evidence-based, culturally relevant curriculum developed by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center that is already in use in some public schools.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



TO: Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: March 15, 2016; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2232, SD2 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

We support the intent of SB 2232, SD2 – 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 **strong support of SB 2232, SD2**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 2232, SD2,
Relating to Education, and requesting amendments

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 S.B. 2232, SD2, creating the 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



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

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

Advisory Board

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Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Robert H. Pantell, MD

Joshua A. Wisch

DATE: March 15, 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 in Strong Support of S.B. 2232 S.D. 2
Relating to Education

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

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports S.B. 2232 S.D. 2, 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. 2 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.

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. 2.

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:59 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mrocca@hscadv.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2232

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Rocca	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	No

Comments:

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Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:02 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: susan.wurtzburg@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2232

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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March 13, 2016

Senator Dee Morikawa, Chair
Senator Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Brandi Sanpei
Email: bsanpei@hawaii.edu

Hearing Date: March 15, 2016
Hearing Place: House Conference Room 329

Subject: Support for SB 2232, Relating to Education

I am a student of the Myron B. Thompson school of Social Work and I strongly **support SB 2232**, which mandates the implementation of a sexual abuse prevention curriculum within the Department of Education, sets guidelines for instruction, and is modeled after Erin's Law.

Sexual abuse continues to be a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and well being of children and young people. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be victims of sexual abuse. Because of this, it is important that children and young people be taught the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves against sexual violence and to obtain the help to end abuse. For that reason it is important that those who interact with children and young people, including parents and educators, receive training to understand the issues of sexual violence.

SB 2232 is a positive step towards ensuring sexual abuse prevention education by requiring public schools to establish a program for students.

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Dionne Malia Infiel
Email: dinfiel@hawaii.edu
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2016

Subject: Support for SB 2232, SD2 (SSCR2596) RELATING TO EDUCATION

I am a mother of two boys, a student of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Manoa, and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB 2232, which will help create and appropriate the necessary funds for the Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual prevention.

As listed on page 4 line 17 of this bill, it is vital for our keiki to learn what is "safe touch, unsafe touch, safe secrets, and unsafe secrets, how to get away, and reporting an incident immediately." I believe this task force in collaboration with the Department of Education will assure the success of this highly needed curriculum. The money allocated for this cause is essential. The right funds will help reach each keiki by selecting the most effective way of delivering this important safety skill set to the various age groups from all cultural backgrounds and reduce their vulnerability.

SB 2232 is a positive step towards ensuring sexual abuse prevention education by requiring public schools to establish a program for students. I urge the committee to **PASS** SB 2232. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:29 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: pfarrelliv@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM

SB2232

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Farrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2232, relating to the establishment of an Erin's Law task force. The sexual abuse of children and young people has become all too prevalent in our society. Many states have implemented sexual abuse prevention education programs to equip children and young people to protect themselves and obtain help. Our keiki are our future, and it is our kulea na to educate and protect them. SB 2232 would provide a much needed first step towards establishing a sexual abuse prevention education program in Hawaii. Please advance this bill. Mahalo for your consideration, Peter Farrell

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:00 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2232

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 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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Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:13 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2232 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2232

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/15/2016

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 329

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2232, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

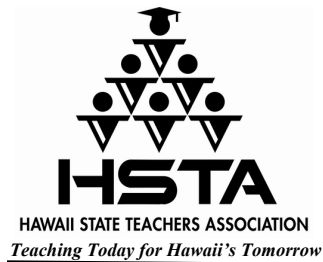
Purpose of Bill: Creates and appropriates funds for the Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through use of age appropriate curricula; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics. Sets out guidelines of instruction. Modeled after Erin's Law. Takes effect on 1/7/2059. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2232 SD2 which establishes and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to be convened by the legislature.

Respectfully, the Department prefers the language proposed in HB1787 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

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

Corey Rosenlee
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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: SB 2232, SD2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2232, SD2**, relating to education, **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 bill 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 bill 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 bill.