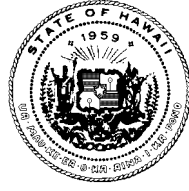


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 9, 2022

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2561 – RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER.**

HEARING: February 10, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill, offers comments, and defers to the Office of Youth Services (OYS). The department agrees with the testimony of the Office of Youth Services (OYS), and given the proposed one-time appropriation, these funds should go to OYS to support the existing emergency shelter services at the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC).

The department further defers to the Department of Taxation and the counties on relevant parts. Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to authorize the department of human services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. Provides for general excise tax and fee exemptions. Appropriates funds.

The department agrees that more resources are needed to support minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. However, due to this one-time funding situation, the proposed appropriation should be directed to OYS to support the existing emergency shelter to maximize the use of the appropriation. Also, OYS and KYFWC already have statutory authority to establish crisis shelters, and DHS respectfully suggests placing the proposed additional language in the OYS chapter for clarity. If the Legislature would like to expand shelter capacity, future appropriations will be needed.

Currently, DHS Child Welfare Services (CWS) protocol ensures that identified trafficked children and youth are assessed and receive appropriate services and protections, regardless of parental abuse or neglect. The department contracts a provider that delivers statewide victim-centered, trauma-informed comprehensive services that are individualized and responsive to the needs, values, culture, and gender identity statewide for minor victims of all forms of human trafficking. The provider also conducts training for DHS, resource caregivers, and the community that promotes public awareness of the sexual exploitation of children.

For youth in DHS foster custody, CWS currently uses its emergency shelters and current list of resource caregivers to place minor victims of sex trafficking. In addition, CWS also uses the Hale Kipa Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center (HLAC) at the KYFWC, which serves minors, ages 12 through 17, who are victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Since its opening, CWS has placed 70 youth in foster care at HLAC.

As to reporting requirements, CWS will work collaboratively with OYS to develop data sharing and data reporting to improve services for this population. Additional resources may be needed to conduct comprehensive reporting.

DHS continues its ongoing work to ensure these minor victims are identified and receive appropriate services. Notably, to maintain the operations of this and future emergency shelters, funding will need to become a line item in the OYS base budget.

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



STATE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

*" A Police Organization for Police Officers Only "
Founded 1971*

February 7, 2022

Online / Fax: 808-586-6879; 586-6899

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Rooms 213, 214
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB2561 Relating to Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

Dear Chairs Nishihara and San Buenaventura, and Honorable Committee members:

I serve as the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO") and write to you on behalf of our Union in strong support of SB2561. This bill will provide incentives that will encourage and support the development of much needed sex trafficking emergency shelters for minors who have been targeted and victimized by sexual predators.

In performing our law enforcement duties in the four counties, we witness first-hand the horrifying victimization of innocent young children who have been targeted by sexual predators. The immeasurable and permanent emotional and physical scarring that children in our community suffer at the hands of sexual predators is appalling and shocking even for our most seasoned officers who have seen it all. Emergency shelters that provide housing, rehabilitation, medical, mental health, therapeutic, legal and diagnostic services are valuable resources and support that the most vulnerable individuals in our society require and deserve.

By creating appropriate incentives, it is our sincere hope that SB2561 will provide the appropriate incentives that will spur the creation of a sufficient number of emergency shelters for minors who have been victimized by sex traffickers. Simultaneously, the bill should include reasonable safeguards to insure that the tax incentives are not abused or misappropriated so that the bill accomplishes what it is intended for.

Main Office & Honolulu Chapter Office
1717 Hoe Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3125
Tel: (808) 847-4676 "84 SHOPO"
www.shopohawaii.org Fax: (808) 841-4818

Hawaii Chapter Office
688 Kinoole Street, Room 220B
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3877
Tel: (808) 934-8405
Fax: (808) 934-8210

Kauai Chapter Office
3176 Oihana Street, Suite 104, Lihue
Mailing Add: P. O. Box 1708
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-5708
Tel: (808) 246-8911

Maui Chapter Office
1887 Wili Pa Loop, Suite 2
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1253
Tel: (808) 242-6129
Fax: (808) 242-9519

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair
Committee on Human Services

February 8, 2022

Page 2

Re: SB2561-Relating to Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

We thank you for allowing us to be heard on this very important societal issue and hope your committee will unanimously support SB2561.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT "BOBBY" CAVACO
SHOPO President

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

To: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair;
The Honorable Les Ihara Jr.;
and Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

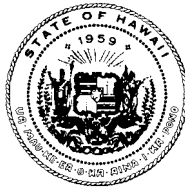
Re: S.B. 2561, Relating to Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 2561 for your consideration.

S.B. 2561 authorizes the Department of Human Services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Section 2 of this measure creates a general excise tax (GET) exemption for compensation received by a victim service provider for operating or managing a sex trafficking emergency shelter for minors. S.B. 2561 takes effect upon approval with Section 4 taking effect on July 1, 2022.

The Department respectfully requests that any changes to the GET be made effective on January 1, 2023. This will provide sufficient time to make the necessary form and computer system modifications.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

February 9, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 2561 RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
Videoconference

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) appreciates the intent of this measure, requests clarification, proposes an amendment. OYS defers to the Departments of Human Services (DHS), Taxation, and county governments. OYS respectfully requests that any general fund appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to authorize the Department of Human Services to establish an emergency shelter, via a purchase of service contract, for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation, in addition to establishing tax incentives to appropriate contract providers. Appropriates funds.

The OYS supports expanding the expansion of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) programs in order to meet its' current statutory requirements and the shelter and other needs of sex trafficked youth.

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services. Under section 352D-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Office of Youth Services, established to develop a central youth service center known as Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC); paragraph (d) describes KYFWC services and programs to include a crisis shelter for victims of human and sex trafficking. As authorized, KYFWC currently has Hale Lanipolua, a contracted outreach and assessment emergency shelter for sex trafficked minors and youth on Oahu. This program is licensed as an 8-bed Child Caring Institution emergency shelter for eligible youth ages 12 to 17. Hale Lanipolua has not reached full capacity, nor has it turned down a youth in need. There are currently no similar existing emergency shelters on the neighbor islands.

To avoid duplication and provide clarity, OYS suggests an amendment to the proposed section 2, starting at page 3, line 10, to reference the existing OYS statute, section 352D-4(3), HRS, relating to community-based shelter residential facilities. Inclusion in OYS statutory authority will allow OYS to expand services within its current infrastructure and avoid duplication of services within DHS.

Hale Lanipolua was initially funded with federal Violence Against Women Act grant funds through December 31, 2021. Upon expiration of this grant, the City and County of Honolulu stepped in to continue this program. This County funding will end on June 30, 2022.

The bill proposes a one-time appropriation of \$500,000, and OYS requests clarification that the funds are to support the existing shelter program at KYFWC. While this will allow for youth victims to receive services on a temporary basis, additional funding and positions will be required to maintain these services over time. Depending on the variety of services offered, it costs approximately \$800,000 annually to run an emergency shelter on Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on Public
Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and the
Senate Committee on Human Services**

February 10, 2022

S.B. No. 2561: RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY
 SHELTER

Chairs Nishihara and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Ihara, and
Members of the Committees:

The Office of the Public Defender supports S.B. 2561.

This measure would help establish or contact with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for juveniles who are victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in furtherance of creation of and development of the Kawaiiloa youth and family wellness center. Juveniles caught in the sex trafficking web or who are victims of sexual exploitation are in need of a safe and secure shelter specifically designed to address the needs of these youth. An emergency shelter for this at risk population would include staff with specialized training. Juveniles caught in the sex trafficking web often become involved in criminal activity when safe spaces and services are not immediately available. The creation of this type of emergency shelter can also be an essential lifeline to help obtain access to vital services like mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment and access to safe and supportive educational services and more stable and secure permanent housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2561

February 10, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2561: 1) amends Chapter 346, HRS, to authorize the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish or contract with a service provider to operate an emergency shelter for sex trafficking victims who are minors, set emergency shelter service and other operational requirements, and authorize county mayors to exempt the shelter from various county taxes and fees; 2) amends Chapter 237, HRS, to exempt compensation for operating or managing such an emergency shelter from the State's general excise tax; and 3) appropriates \$500,000 in general funds to DHS in FY 23 to establish or contract for the operation of such an emergency shelter.

B&F notes that the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act restricts states from using ARP Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation beginning on March 3, 2021, through the last day of the fiscal year in which the CSFRF have been spent. If a state cuts taxes during this

period, it must demonstrate how it paid for the tax cuts from sources other than the CSFRF, such as:

- By enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue;
- By cutting spending; or
- Through higher revenue due to economic growth.

If the CSFRF provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be repaid to the U.S. Treasury.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal ARP Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has issued rules governing how the ARP CSFRF tax cut offset restriction is to be administered, and the U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how the ESSER maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with both the ARP CSFRF use restriction and the ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE CLARENCE NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Thirty-first State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai'i**

February 10, 2022

RE: S.B. 2561; RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER.

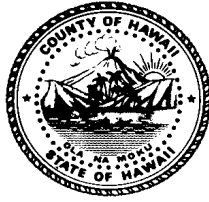
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoie, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following comments, supporting the intent of S.B. 2561.

The Department strongly agrees that commercial sexual exploitation of children ("CSEC") is a dire problem in Hawaii, and the availability of safe, reliable housing for CSEC victims is a key component to stabilization and ultimate rehabilitation for these children. While the Department defers to the expertise of community-based service providers—such as The Pacific Survivor Center and Susannah Wesley Community Center—in terms of the efficacy or proper implementation of an emergency group shelter for CSEC victims, the Department also encourages the Committee to consider the benefits of putting significant resources toward developing more **therapeutic foster families (also known as resource families)**. To the extent child victims of commercial sexual exploitation are able to live with and learn from stable, caring, professionally trained families—while also receiving appropriate treatment and other services—the Department believes this significantly aids in their recovery. These programs are supported by the Department of Human Services, and to some extent by the Department of Health, through various providers such as Hale Kipa and Catholic Charities of Hawaii.¹

Although the Department's primary role is prosecution of criminal offenses, our overarching concern is the safety and welfare of the people of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

¹ See <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/home/child-welfare-services/foster-and-adoptive-care/>; <https://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/support/become-a-foster-family/>; and <https://www.halekipa.org/fosterparent/>.

Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder
Council Member
District 5



Phone No.: (808) 961-8263
matt.kanealii-kleinfelder@hawaiiicounty.gov

Hawai'i County Council
County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2405 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 9, 2022

SUBJECT: SB2561 Relating to Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB2561.

As a member of the Hawai'i Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit, one of the most urgent root needs brought up by service providers is for greater coordination of care.

Hawai'i Island currently lacks the proper resources to efficiently service victims, which leads to minor victims of trafficking and at-risk minors being sent off-island for care. As a result, Hawai'i Island service providers must work hard to develop relationships with outer island providers, making it difficult to handle caseloads efficiently and effectively. This, compounded with a lack of sufficient capacity, has been an ongoing challenge that leads to a vicious cycle where minor victims are unable to get care or get care long enough. If passed, this measure would work to fill that gap.

I would like to suggest that the language on lines 2 and 3 of page 6 (Section 2) of the bill reflect Act 68 of the 2021 Legislative Session (HB887) to appropriately describe the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor rather than using the term "prostitution."

The legislature additionally finds that legal terminology is vital to an understanding of sex trafficking in the criminal justice system and in the general community. Creating a separate crime for individuals who purchase people for sex, changing the name of a crime from "solicitation of a minor for prostitution" to "commercial sexual exploitation of a minor", and eliminating the noun "prostitute" will further this objective.

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

Mahalo,

Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder
Councilmember, District 5
Hawai'i County Council

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

February 4, 2022

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara Chair,
And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT OF SB 2561 RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports the intent of SB 2561 Relating to a Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter.

Providing emergency shelter, counseling and other related services to minors who are survivors of sex trafficking is a much-needed service.

HYSN does not have data that supports the need for second emergency shelter for sex trafficking victims. The Lanipolua Assessment Center operated by Hale Kipa is rarely full to capacity and has never turned away an eligible youth.

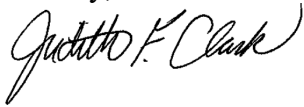
The Lanipolua Assessment Center is operating with year-to-year funding. Current funding will expire in less than a year without any guarantee of renewal. Providing longer-term, stable funding for the Lanipolua Assessment Center is a more critical need than establishing a new shelter. If more beds are needed, adding capacity to an existing program is more cost-effective than starting a new one.

HYSN believes that the provision to exempt the provider of services from taxes is unnecessary. Non-profit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) status are already exempt from paying taxes on income received for services that are related to the organization's mission. Thus, the exemption from taxes is designed to benefit businesses that choose to operate a for-profit shelter. The

primary purpose of a for-profit company is to generate profits for shareholders or owners. Decisions about policies and services may be based on what will generate the most profit rather than the best interests and needs of the clients. If the contract for the trafficking shelter is awarded to a for-profit company, that company should continue to pay its fair share of taxes rather than adding to the profits of a corporation.

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



SB 2561, RELATING TO A SEX TRAFFICKING EMERGENCY SHELTER

FEBRUARY 10, 2022 · SENATE HUMAN SERVICES
AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN.
JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA AND SEN. CLARENCE
NISHIHARA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **supports SB 2561**, relating to a sex trafficking emergency shelter, which authorizes the department of human services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minor victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

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.**

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 authorization of the establishment of an emergency shelter under the auspices of the Hawai‘i Department of Human Services. Our state only has one emergency shelter for child survivors of sexual exploitation (run by Hale Kipa), which temporarily shut down last year when

its VOCA funding stream was cancelled by the Office of the Attorney General. This bill would empower DHS to contract with a service provider for the facilitation of an emergency shelter, which would provide greater fiscal stability to ensure that this critical component of our state's continuum of care is not lost to financial disruptions. **We note that the cost to operate an emergency shelter is approximately \$40,000 per month, using Hale Kipa's numbers, which is less than \$500,000 per year.**

We also want to state that an emergency shelter is not the same thing as a residential treatment center, such as the treatment center operated by Ho'ōla Nā Pua. **Emergency shelters deliver crisis care to survivors within the first few days and weeks of their recovery, while residential treatment centers provide rehabilitative care for six months to a year for survivors whose recovery has already advanced beyond the stage of emergency care.** At a time of economic prosperity, we should ensure that survivors of sexual exploitation are given the resources that they need to heal.

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

SB-2561

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:51:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 definitely supports SB2561. Please pass this bill.

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

SB-2561

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:10:56 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Ching, MD, MPH	Testifying for American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and the Committee on Human Services:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter supports SB2561 which would authorize the Department of Human Services to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. We urge you to pass this legislation to give our vulnerable keiki a safe option for escaping trafficking or exploitation. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP

President

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter



10 February 2022

Senate Committee on Human Services

Hearing Time: 1:00pm

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 2561, Relating to a sex trafficking emergency shelter.

Aloha Senator Acasio, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 2561, relating to a sex trafficking emergency shelter. This bill would authorize the department of human services to establish or contract a victim service provider to operate an emergency shelter for minor who are victims of sex trafficking and or exploitation. Appropriating funds and providing for general excise tax and fee exemptions.

According to section 1 of SB 2561, it is stated that during the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in 2019, a service provider for sex trafficking victims in Hawai'i, reported an increase in demand for services, such as trauma-informed care, by three hundred per cent. With this in mind we strongly believe SB 2561 can assist in this increase by creating a safe place where victims of sex trafficking and or exploitation can go to receive the help the desperately need. This shelter also has the ability to create a haven for those who have experienced the horrific world of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Hopefully providing a first glance into a better world, life, and or community away from the one they were previously in.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals 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 2561.

A COLLABORATION OF THE HAWAI'I YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, OLOMANA SCHOOL, KINA 'EHA, HALE KIPA, RYSE, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, 1099 ALAKEA ST., STE, 2530, HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
(808) 447-1840 WWW.OYAHPOLICY.COM/



February 8, 2022

TO: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

FROM: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Deputy CEO-Hale Kipa

SUBJECT: SB2561; Relating to a Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

COMMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2561. Hale Kipa was incorporated in January 1970 and immediately began providing emergency shelter services for girls and women in need of safety and support. Since that time, the agency has continued to provide this critical service and expanded and created a continuum of services focused on meeting the needs of children, youth and young adults through twenty programs.

Seeing the need to have a more specific response to minor victims and survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, Hale Kipa, working in partnership with the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) and the Department of Human Services and others, opened the Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center on the grounds of the KYFWC in Kailua in August 2018. Since then, it has accepted 118 placements (and 62 unduplicated youth) for emergency shelter and supportive services. It is an 8-bed licensed facility that is spacious, safe and welcoming to male, female, and LGBTQAI+ youth, ages 12-18 (though we have taken some younger and older youth as needed). Services are provided at no cost, 24/7.

The Hale Lanipōlua Assessment Center has established safeguards, consistent schedules, responsibilities, and procedures and meets all licensing requirements for a secure, safe, and healthy environment. The program approach optimizes safety, individualization, relationships, youth voice, positive youth development, trauma-informed care, competency development, use of community and positive connections, offers groups, yoga and other healing arts and works extensively with other community agencies including Susannah Wesley Community Center. Youth often return home or transition to other treatment programs including the new Pearl Haven. Many of these young people do run away (it is an unlocked facility) and almost all continue to stay connected with the staff and have returned to the Center as they continue to work through their challenges and wait for a stable longer-term placement.

91-2128 Old Fort Weaver Road • 'Ewa Beach, HI 96706 • T 808.589.1829 • F 808.589.2610 • info@halekipa.org • www.halekipa.org

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The Center has admitted all referred youth, has never turned away any eligible youth and has always been able to admit more youth into its shelter. Hale Kipa has been working with the State Human Trafficking Coordinator and others to continually ensure that all youth affected by sex trafficking/commercial sex exploitation needing emergency shelter are aware of Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center. There also may be the possibility of adding another piece of the continuum which would include emergency shelter placement at temporary foster home vs. the shelter if that is better suited for the youth.

At this time, Hale Kipa cannot substantiate the need for another shelter but would support the funding of a shelter to provide stability for services to be available for youth in need.

Thank for again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, MSW
Deputy CEO
Hale Kipa

SB-2561

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:36:17 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I definitely support SB2561.

What pushes me to support this bill is by thinking about these victims being my ohana or people I hold close to me. Through the establishment of these emergency shelters we are providing minors who are victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. I think it important to mention that more of these safe havens are needed as sex trafficking are becoming much more prevalent within the islands. It's also important to note that these spaces will provide the needed resources for these victims as they deal with the emotional trauma through such experience.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Lynn DeCoite

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1300 HST

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2561 Relating to a Sex Trafficking Emergency Shelter

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and the members of the Committee on Human Services; Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Lynn DeCoite, and the members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Mahalo for hearing SB2561 relating to a sex trafficking emergency shelter. I am writing in **strong support** of SB2561.

I believe that appropriating funds for an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation is a crucial first step necessary to provide the victims with a safe exit. No child is immune to becoming a victim of sex trafficking. Every parent knows that no matter how much they love and protect their child, there are still threats of harm that exist in the world.

Although some victims are reunited with their caregivers upon rescue, a majority of child sex trafficking victims hail from less-than-ideal environments including homelessness that leave them especially vulnerable. In some cases, the child is trafficked by their own caregivers. In either case, an emergency shelter that is specialized in trauma-informed care for child sex trafficking victims will help to minimize further harm until a caregiver can be contacted or arranged for.

Additionally, there is a strong correlation between homelessness and child sex trafficking. The increasing cost of living is leaving families more susceptible to homelessness; therefore, one can anticipate an inevitable increase in child sex trafficking, and a need for shelters to protect and safeguard the keiki at the very least. For this reason, I strongly reaffirm my **support** for SB2561.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Soon Kim
Senate District 15

SB-2561

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:47:17 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Rosemarie Muller and I live in Keaau, Hawai'i. I support this measure (SB 2561) for the Department of Human Services to establish an emergency shelter for minors who are victims of sex trafficking... a very needed shelter that the State currently does not provide.

Thank you

SB-2561

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:09:08 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

If these are all minor (child) victims of sex trafficking, **why is there no reference to the effort of finding these children's parents/family?** Once health & safety issues are provided for the next urgent & pressing need is for them to reunify with family - all the other services can be granted AFTER reunification has occurred but to make no effort to reunify these children is only making their captivity just one step better than what they were just rescued from - they need to go home, not see their shelter environment as their new home. Please make provisions for family reunification in this measure and then I can support it.