



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB554 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO CAMPUS SAFETY.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB554 HD2 SD1**, which requires that the University of Hawai'i ensure that any individual who participates in implementing the University's disciplinary process has training or experience in handling sexual misconduct complaints and the University's disciplinary process. Requires that the University provide mandatory annual trauma-informed, gender-inclusive, LGBTQ+-inclusive sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming for students and employees of the University. Prohibits the University from taking certain disciplinary action against individuals reporting sexual misconduct unless certain exceptions apply.

Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) are overwhelmingly likely to be victims of sexual violence. 83% of women with disabilities will be sexually assaulted in their lives, but just 3% of sexual abuses involving people with developmental disabilities will be reported.

I/DD Students on UH campuses deserve to have a system that will make sure they are safe and supported. Ensuring that sexual misconduct on UH campuses can be reported to individuals that are well informed of how to properly support victims is essential to making sure victims of sexual misconduct in our community are kept as safe as possible and further violence is minimized.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB554 HD2 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Date: April 4, 2023
Location: Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Re: Testimony in support of HB554 HD2 SD1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran, and honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Ezzy and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and State Director of the Every Voice Hawai'i, a student- and survivor-led coalition to end sexual violence on college campuses. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of the totality of HB554 HD2 SD1: Relating to Campus Safety**. This bill establishes necessary resources and supports for survivors: providing trauma-informed training for involved staff, offering annual access to prevention & awareness programming, and amnesty for reporting parties.

Campus safety is an equity issue because all Hawai'i students have the right to access education and live in a campus community free from sexual violence but right now, at the University of Hawai'i, that is not the case. The 2021 UH Campus Climate Survey reported to the legislature that 1 in 6 female and 1 in 3 transgender or non-binary students are experiencing sexual violence at UH. Students with disabilities were two or more times more likely to experience sexual violence and harassment. Female graduate students - my personal cohort at UH - reported twice the rate of sexual harassment from faculty as compared to undergraduate women. The inequity of campus sexual violence is urgent and as students we believe no use of time or resources is inefficient in improving equal access to education for all UH students.

The trauma of sexual violence and the subsequent lack of support and resources for student survivors often manifest as devastating long-term impacts including educational and economic outcomes, long-term career trajectory, and emotional and physical health. Alarmingly, in 2021, 5 in 6 students who experienced gender violence did not access UH resources and over 80% of students reported negative consequences after experiencing sexual violence at UH.

HB554 HD2 SD1 represents innovative change because this measure works to fill in gaps to prevent campus violence from occurring in the first place and also to ensure all students are met with supportive options and resources after experiencing gender-based violence. Annual prevention and awareness programming is required to ensure all students know what consent looks like, how they can be active bystanders and how they can access supportive resources. At UH, 2 in 3 students in 2021 said they did not attend any training or information session on sexual violence or gender-based violence. However, 61% of students who recalled attending a training or information session indicated that it was extremely or very useful. Without annual prevention and awareness programming in the statute, access to this proven preventative measure for sexual assault is not mandatory and can easily be removed from students.



Amnesty protections are required for reporting parties to ensure no student gets in trouble for a minor school-rule violation that may have occurred at the time of an incident. For example, at UH Hilo most of our dorms are “dry” dorms meaning there is no alcohol use allowed. The Campus Climate Survey showed that almost 1 in 2 students who experienced non-consensual sexual contact were under the influence of alcohol at the time. Fear of punishment for breaking dorm rules could unfortunately deter a survivor or bystander from accessing University resources when alcohol is involved in a sexual violence incident. HB554 HD2 SD1 puts student safety first, ensuring students feel safe to come forward and receive the resources that they need after experiencing traumatic events.

HB554 HD2 SD1 is crucially important to define “trauma-informed” as the University of Hawai‘i does not have a definition of “trauma-informed.” Robust trauma-informed response training for staff and faculty who are responsible for supporting students who have experienced trauma is the only way to guarantee that survivors are not further retraumatized when reporting to their school. In 2021, over 50% of UH student victims did not report due to emotional concerns. According to Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, 94% of women who are raped experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the two weeks following the rape and 30% of women report symptoms of PTSD 9 months after the rape. Employees and officials responding to a disclosure of traumatic events like sexual violence must have the skills and tools to respond in a trauma-informed manner.

On behalf of students in Hawai‘i and advocates against gender-based violence, we ask that you support legislation to strengthen anti-violence protections at the University of Hawai‘i by favorably passing HB554 HD2 SD1 out of committee. Campus sexual violence should not be a part of the college experience but as a current college student, I see that it is painfully woven into many of our lives. Thankfully, there are proven measures in HB554 HD2 SD1 to reduce sexual violence rates and support survivors in healing.

May you act with the same urgency to codify greater access to resources available regardless of what waivers every four to eight years at the federal level. Students need access to the resources not currently provided at institutions, and with current Title IX rollbacks that are an unknown amount of time away from any change, Hawai‘i students need these supports now. At the current rates, thousands of students will experience gender-based violence during their time at the University of Hawai‘i without accessing resources if we do not act now.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB554 HD2 SD1 and mahalo for all you do to support Hawai‘i students in their educational journeys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anna Nalani Ezzy'.

Anna Nalani Ezzy

State Director

Every Voice Coalition Hawai‘i



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: April 4, 2023 at 10:00AM
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB554 HD2 SD1

Dear Chairs Rhoads, Dela Cruz and Vice Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees,

Members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB554 HD2 SD1 which would ensure that the University of Hawai'i provides annual sexual assault prevention & awareness training to faculty and students, amnesty for reporting parties as well as trauma-informed response training for staff responsible for responding to incidents of sexual violence. These actions are needed to empower campus communities across Hawai'i to stop sexual violence in its tracks as well as to guarantee that survivors do not face retaliation nor retraumatization for reporting gender-based violence.

Though both men and women are targets of violence on campus, sexual assault disproportionately affects women, transgender and gender non-binary students and impedes survivors' ability to participate fully in their education. Statistics from the 2021 Campus Climate Survey from the University of Hawai'i showed that 1 in 6 female students experience sexual violence and harassment during their time at UH while 1 in 3 transgender or non-binary students at UH experience sexual violence and harassment and students with disabilities are two or more times more likely to experience sexual violence and harassment. Additionally, Native Hawaiian UH students experience higher rates of intimate partner violence than their peers.

The repercussions of campus violence are serious and students are not getting the support they need. In 2021, 46% of University of Hawai'i students reported negative academic or professional consequences after experiencing gender violence, a significant increase in percentage from 2019. Yet alarmingly, five out of six UH students reported not accessing university resources after experiencing sexual violence. Amnesty policies for reporting parties as well as ensuring that survivors are met with a trauma-informed response are necessary to bridge this reporting gap and ensure community trust in the University of Hawai'i's response to disclosures.

Evidence-based training on sexual assault prevention and response empowers all members of the community to take action to stop sexual violence. While the current statute mandates trainings on Title IX, VAWA as well as university policies on sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, HB554 HD2 SD1 adds the necessary training piece of sexual



assault prevention and awareness. As a crucial upstream solution, prevention and awareness training must be added to the statute to ensure perpetuity of access to these trainings. By offering both preventative as well as supportive solutions to make campuses safer, HB554 HD2 SD1 will help students remain in school so they can achieve their educational goals and contribute to Hawai'i's future.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward O'ahu. UH Hilo, UH Mānoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

with Aloha,

Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net



April 4, 2023

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and honorable members of the committee,

I am a student at UH and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of the totality of HB554 HD2: Relating to Campus Safety**. Campuses are place to learn and build futures, however furthering your education can put you at a higher risk of sexual assault. Data shows that one in ten people attending college will be victims of sexual assault by the time they graduate, demonstrating that students are at an alarmingly high risk. The goal of the Campus Safety Bill is to protect these students who will inevitably become victims by providing them resources and trained personnel to help them overcome the trauma as well as working on campus education to help prevent these crimes from happening so frequently.

It's important for students to feel safe on campus, especially when it's the place they are living and have nowhere else to go, often far away from family members and previous support systems. College is when you start on your own in the world. We want to make sure victims of sexual assault feel like they have a support system they can trust and feel comfortable with. However, this cannot be done without amnesty for the victims. If someone is subjected to something as traumatic as sexual assault, they shouldn't have to worry about getting in trouble for the circumstances it happened under, nor should these circumstances take away from the seriousness of these situations. For example, if someone drinking underage is sexually assaulted and goes to report this, they could get in trouble for the underage drinking although it pales in comparison to the gravity of a sexual assault. This just causes further trauma and distracts from the violent crime that was committed and should be being addressed. This is why amnesty for victims is so important and one of multiple reasons why this bill is vital. Victims need amnesty if they are going to use university resources. In 2021 surveys showed that 5 in 6 students that experienced sexual assault didn't access UH resources, and with amnesty these numbers could be a lot lower, providing a safe and protected space for victims. I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak on HB554 HD2.

Mahalo for your time,

Jessie Gunderman

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 1:57:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 554 HD 2 SD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



HB 554, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO CAMPUS SAFETY

APRIL 4, 2023 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS AND
JUDICIARY COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. DONOVAN
DELA CRUZ AND SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance **strongly supports** HB 554, HD2, SD1, relating to campus safety, which requires that University of Hawai'i students and employees receive training on sexual misconduct awareness and trauma informed responses, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; requires that the University of Hawai'i ensure that any individual who participates in implementing the university's disciplinary process has training or experience in handling sexual misconduct complaints and the university's disciplinary process; requires that the university provide mandatory annual trauma informed, gender inclusive, LGBTQ+ inclusive sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming for students and employees of the university; and prohibits the university from taking disciplinary action against individuals reporting sexual misconduct unless certain exceptions apply.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, 11.2 percent of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Among undergraduate students, 23.1 percent of females experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. This issue is not specific to women, either. Male college-aged students (18-24) are 78 percent more likely than non-students of the same age to be a victim of rape or sexual assault.

Sexual violence is pervasive on college campuses in Hawai'i. According to UH's most recent climate survey, conducted in 2021:

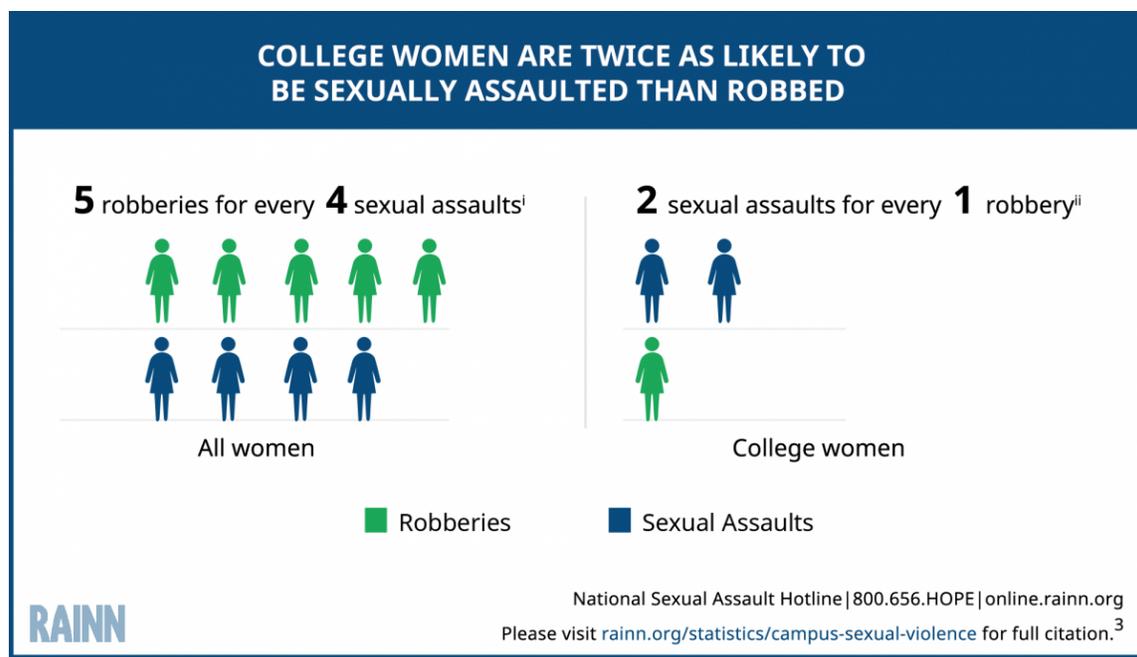
- Approximately 35 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i feel that the issues of sexual assault and sexual harassment are extremely, very, or somewhat problematic.
- 9.2 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i experienced sexual harassment while at the university according to the 2021 campus climate survey.
- 18.5 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i experienced dating or domestic violence while at the university according to the 2021 campus climate survey.
- 6 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i experienced nonconsensual sexual contact while at the university according to the 2019 campus climate survey, an increase of 14 percent since 2017.
- 100 percent of students experiencing sexual harassment reported enduring negative consequences from the incidents, the most common of which were emotional trauma, social consequences, and adverse academic impacts.

Imua Alliance is a 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. 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.

Many of the victims with whom we work were first exploited while enrolled at of Hawai'i colleges or after experiencing sexual violence during their college years. These institutions provided little information about how to receive help and failed to deliver trauma-informed care,

leaving our survivors to fend for themselves after being victimized. While the University of Hawai'i has taken small steps to improve its response to sexual violence in the last few years, its services remain inadequate, information sharing remains spotty (most students do not receive a copy of the Title IX handbook published by the university, for example), and personnel tasked with managing its sexual misconduct protocols remain badly in need of training in trauma-informed care, something that should be required for all staff tasked with handling cases of campus violence. Students at other universities, including Chaminade, BYU-Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Pacific University, deserve the same protections and reporting opportunities (including anonymous campus safety surveys regarding sexual violence), which this measure's revisions to HRS §305J-8 would require to the greatest extent possible.

COLLEGE WOMEN MORE LIKELY TO BE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED THAN ROBBED



Finally, on a personal note I, Kris Coffield, Executive Director of Imua Alliance, am heavily invested in this measure's success. When I was a student at the University of Hawai'i, in early 2008, I was violently, penetratively raped by a professor and three graduate students. It happened during a late-night study session to which I was invited by someone who, at the time, I believed to be an academic mentor. I may have been drugged, given that I couldn't move as it happened, though I also could have experienced involuntary paralysis, my body reeling from the shock of the assault.

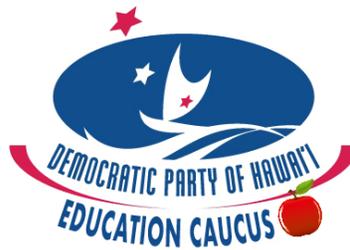
During the attack, I was beaten with a belt, held down forcefully by the men involved, called an assortment of vulgar names (the *least* offensive of which were “f*** whore,” “sex slave,” and “rape slut”), and deliberately misgendered—I was referred to as female throughout the assault in an attempt to further degrade me—as they took turns orally and anally raping me.

I attempted to report the assault to a UH administrator. I was informed at the time, however, that the university wasn't prepared to take action on my case. When I asked why, I was told, "You're a political science major. You should understand that some people have more power than others." Since then, I've struggled with a persistent feeling of powerlessness. I've fought for years to overcome lingering depression and anxiety, along with the fear that my assailants will, at some point, come back to harm me.

To be clear, I don't blame the current UHM administration for what happened to me. In fact, I applaud the university's leadership for taking steps to address sexual assault and sexual harassment on campus, following an audit by the U.S. Department of Education that revealed serious gaps in the school's compliance with Title IX's requirements for handling reports of sexual violence. Additionally, I'm not seeking anything, monetary or otherwise, from UH the university, or anyone involved in the incident.

I simply can no longer be silent. My justice must be obtained by sharing my story, so that other victims may feel less alone. I can be a lamppost in a dark and thorny forest, shining a light that makes trauma a little more bearable and hope a little easier to find for those who, like me, have suffered the pain of sexual violence. But I am no longer a rape victim. **I am a survivor.** I, and my organization, humbly ask you to validate the experiences of survivors by passing this measure and working to end the rape culture that continues to infect our state's college campuses.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



HOUSE BILL 554, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO CAMPUS SAFETY

APRIL 4, 2023 · SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS
AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY · CHAIRS. SEN.
DONOVAN DELA CRUZ AND SEN. KARL RHOADS

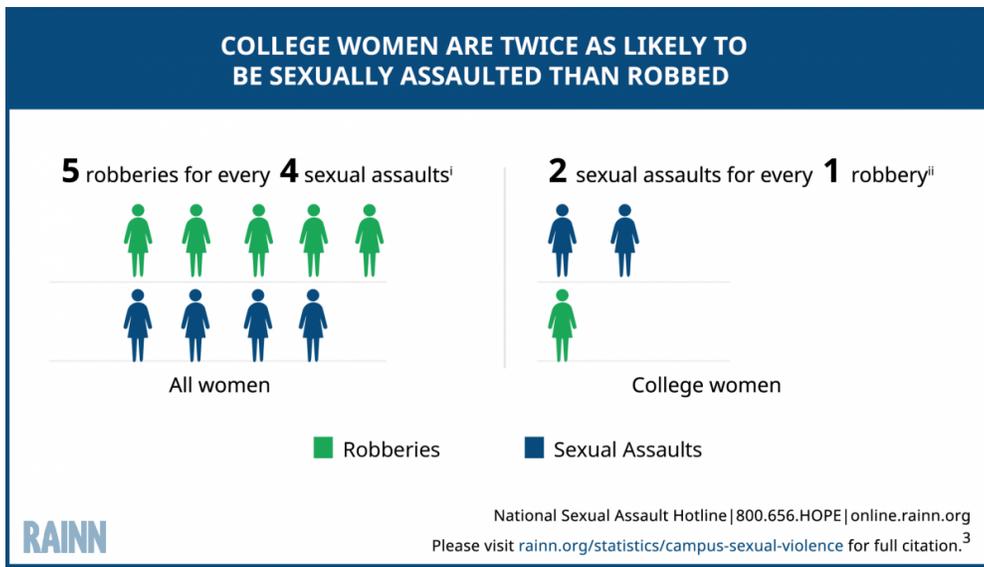
POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 554, HD2, SD1, relating to campus safety, which requires that University of Hawai'i students and employees receive training on sexual misconduct awareness and trauma informed responses, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; requires that the University of Hawai'i ensure that any individual who participates in implementing the university's disciplinary process has training or experience in handling sexual misconduct complaints and the university's disciplinary process; requires that the university provide mandatory annual trauma informed, gender inclusive, LGBTQ+ inclusive sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming for students and employees of the university; and prohibits the university from taking disciplinary action against individuals reporting sexual misconduct.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, 11.2 percent of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Among undergraduate students, 23.1 percent of females experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. This issue is not specific to women, either. Male college-aged students (18-24) are 78 percent

more likely than non-students of the same age to be a victim of rape or sexual assault. Sexual violence is pervasive on college campuses in Hawai'i. According to UH's most recent climate survey, conducted in 2021:

- Approximately 35 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i feel that the issues of sexual assault and sexual harassment are extremely, very, or somewhat problematic.
- 9.2 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i experienced sexual harassment while at the university according to the 2021 campus climate survey.
- 18.5 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i experienced dating or domestic violence while at the university according to the 2021 campus climate survey.
- 6 percent of students at the University of Hawai'i experienced nonconsensual sexual contact while at the university according to the 2019 campus climate survey, an increase of 14 percent since 2017.
- 100 percent of students experiencing sexual harassment reported negative consequences from the incidents, such as emotional trauma and adverse academic impacts.



Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Senate Committee on ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: April 4, 2023 10:00AM
Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB554 HD2 SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Members of Committees,

Members of Hawaii State Democratic Women's Caucus thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB554 HD2 SD1 which would ensure that the University of Hawaii provides annual mandatory sexual assault prevention and awareness training to students and employees. The measure would also prohibit the university from taking disciplinary actions against individuals reporting sexual assault and misconduct. The measure also establishes positions and appropriate funds.

The 2021 Campus Climate Survey from the University of Hawaii shows that 1 in 6 female students experience sexual assault and harassment during their time at UH, 46% of University of Hawaii students suffer negative academic or professional consequences after experiencing gender based violence, and 5 out of 6 did not report the violence (many fearing retaliation).

Please pass HB554 HD2 SD1 for it would help preventing sexual violence and misconduct at University of Hawaii, and it will help students remain in school after experiencing gender based violence. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of Hawaii State Democratic Women's Caucus

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls.



April 3rd, 2023

Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Rhoads, and Vice-Chairs Agaran-Keith and Gabbard, and honorable members of the Committees,

My name is Lily Bohem James, I am a 2021 college graduate and serve as co-Executive Director of The Every Voice Coalition, and **I am testifying in support of HB554 HD2 SD1.**

As you may know, The Every Voice Coalition is a student, young alum and survivor-led organization that has fought tirelessly on behalf of survivor and student rights in Hawai'i to bring HB554 before you today. These students have researched, met with stakeholders, drafted, re-drafted, met with more stakeholders and shared their work with legislators- including many of you in this room today- all with the goal of passing their student-written bill, HB554, into law in Hawai'i to make Hawai'i the 7th state in the nation to have passed an Every Voice, student-written law to address the epidemic of campus sexual violence we face on our campuses every day.

There is an epidemic of sexual violence on our college campuses. To put some context into what students are experiencing every day on campuses: estimates show that 1 in 10 students will experience sexual violence during their time in college which means some 6,000 *currently enrolled* Hawai'i students have experienced or will experience sexual violence. **This is an outrage, but our society has grown numb to the realities that students face in their communities.** Beyond just the numbers, I ask you to think about what happens in the aftermath of these traumatic incidents- Where do these students go? Who do they talk to? What resources do they have to help them heal physically, emotionally, and mentally?

Right now, student survivors are not receiving the support they need following an experience of sexual violence. Indeed, statistics from a 2021 survey of University of Hawai'i students showed that **5 out of 6 students who experienced gender based violence do not access UH resources.** It's subsequently unsurprising that **82.4% of UH students reported negative consequences after experiencing sexual violence at UH.** Many student survivors will take leaves of absence or drop out of college altogether and many of these students will experience PTSD, depression, and/or misuse alcohol or drugs, often as a means of self-medication. Further, estimates show that the lifetime cost of rape- often including student loan debt as a result of adverse impacts on a survivor's educational trajectory- to be over \$122,000 per survivor.

I know that the picture I have just painted is a stark one, and is one that may feel overwhelming or insurmountable. But, the good news is that **HB544 aims to address the issues and gaps at the core of this issue on campuses. Each word in each section is crucial- and implementable.** So, while this is a devastating and serious issue, it is not insurmountable.

It is tempting to think of sexual violence as solely an individual issue centered on a "bad person who does bad things" and, while of course those individuals must be held accountable for their actions, we must also look at the *systems* in which they are committing violence and examine these systems. This is where HB554 comes in: **this bill is about creating a community and culture of respect, of accountability and of community response that centers the needs of those who have been harmed.**

The community-wide training requirements not only requires a higher bar of inclusive, best practice content but also increases training to be annual which will ensure all community members know how to make their communities safe ones. Additionally, the trauma-informed training component takes further steps to ensure that students who've experienced sexual trauma and seek support from campus administrators are met with a response centered in compassion, awareness and with an understanding of the deep impacts of trauma. Lastly, the amnesty from discipline component of this bill breaks down a massive barrier for students seeking support following an experience of sexual violence. No student should have to worry they may face disciplinary actions for drinking under-age at the time they were sexually violated.

These three components take common sense steps to ensure that students are able to receive the support they need in order to first and foremost, heal from trauma, and simultaneously pursue their education. **And, these components have been passed and implemented in 7 other states before: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Nevada, Illinois, Connecticut and Maine have already passed sister bills to this one. Hawai'i has the opportunity to be the 7th state to take action to prioritize their students' safety and stand up and make this critical change.** It is something that we can and will solve together. But it is something that we can not keep waiting to address because, **every year that we wait, we are putting thousands of students at risk when we could have done more.**

Thank you so much for listening to the voices of students, young alums and survivors here with me today. I urge the committee to vote HB554 favorable out of committee.

With urgency,

Lily Bohan James

Co- Executive Director, The Every Voice Coalition

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 5:47:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor



April 4, 2023

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran,

My name is Gwynne Long, I am a student at The University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and I am in SUPPORT of HB554 HD2 to codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on University of Hawai'i campuses as well as establish crucial supports for student survivors such as an amnesty policy and a guaranteed trauma-informed response from school staff.

During my first weeks of the Fall 2022 semester, I received an email from the school with the subject "Fall 2022 University of Hawaii Online Title IX Training for Students". The training contains videos and literature designed to help students gain knowledge on how to prevent sexual assault/violence. Though administered in September, the training is open until August of 2023, allowing students to finish the school year having never completed the training. On top of that, the training is not enforced. Students can simply disregard the email and go about their school year having no knowledge or training on the subject. The only other outreach the school offers where students are directly communicated anything regarding Title IX or sexual assault resources, is syllabus week. Most professors will include in their syllabus where the Title IX office is located, what it's there for, and how to utilize it. From my experience, this section is quickly brushed over and copied and pasted the exact same on all syllabi.

Though I personally have not experienced sexual violence while attending the university, I know plenty of professors and school employees who have made myself and other students uncomfortable with their remarks and insinuations during class time. One professor in particular has made countless remarks to my female peer regarding her ability to do things almost in a discriminatory tone. In my experience, he had announced to the class that he believed I had romantic feelings for another classmate, which was completely uncalled for, unprofessional, and untrue. It's extremely important for all student professors to undergo mandatory training on ways to avoid acting in such a way that can make others uncomfortable or do something they do not consent to. Annual sexual assault prevention and awareness programming must be mandatory to ensure everyone in the campus community is on the same page about consent, bystander intervention, and preventative measures.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups reporting higher rates of violence in 2021 while attending the University of Hawai'i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources in 2021, change is urgently required to help students connect with the help they need to continue their education.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of all UH students across Hawai'i, please pass HB554 HD2.

Signed,
Gwynne Long

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 6:03:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rozendo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hannah and I am a student at the University of Hawai‘i [campus]. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB554 to codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on University of Hawai‘i campuses and establish crucial supports for student survivors like an amnesty policy and guaranteed trauma-informed response from school staff.

These resources can make a massive difference in the grief processing and trauma healing journey for victims and survivors. As a student, I want to trust that the leaders of the university are trained in how to respond to this situation which is unfortunately still common occurrence in our culture.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups reporting higher rates of violence in 2021 while attending the University of Hawai‘i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources in 2021, change is urgently required to help students connect with the help they need to continue their education.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of all UH students across Hawai‘i, please pass HB554.

Signed,

Hannah

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 8:23:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Meiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ellen Meiser and I am a faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB554 to codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on University of Hawai'i campuses as well as establish crucial supports for student survivors such as an amnesty policy and a guaranteed trauma-informed response from school staff.

As a faculty member, I have witnessed a strong desire amongst the student body, faculty and staff at UH-Hilo for HB554 to pass, so that victims of sexual violence are better protected and cared for. As we all know, sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups reporting higher rates of violence in 2021 while attending the University of Hawai'i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources in 2021, change is urgently required to help students connect with the help they need to continue their education.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of all UH students across Hawai'i, please pass HB554.

Mahalo,

Ellen Meiser

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 12:27:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

College campuses should be safe from sexual and domestic violence. However, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization, 13% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation.

Incidents of sexual and domestic violence are also pervasive on college campuses in Hawai‘i. More than 19% of students who were in a partnered relationship while enrolled at the University of Hawai‘i reported having experienced dating violence or domestic violence. In addition, about 10% said they had been sexually harassed or stalked, and 6.3% reported nonconsensual sexual contact, according to a survey of students released by the university in January 2018.

Strengthening campus safety protocols to ensure that students are adequately protected from escalating incidents of abuse is a matter of statewide concern. Please support HB554 HD2 SD1.

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 6:13:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Stierhoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

My name is Emma Stierhoff, and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i in Hilo. I am writing to express my SUPPORT for HB554, which will codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on UH campuses, and establish much needed supports for survivors of assault including an amnesty policy and guaranteed trauma-informed response from UH staff.

Sexual harrassment and assault have been a massive problem at UH, and disproportionately impact already marginalized groups on campus. Meanwhile, among reported incidents, 5 out of 6 student survivors in 2021 did not access university resources. The prevalence of sexual violence is unacceptable and must be addressed immediately, and the process of reporting must be improved so that victims know they can report without being subjected to further trauma. HB 554 is a crucial first step in preventing sexual violence from persisting. I am tired of watching friends suffer trauma and feel unsafe while simply trying to pursue an education. The violence must be stopped, and student survivors must be able to connect with the necessary resources to report the instance, cope, and recover.

Hence, I urge you to **pass** HB554 to begin the neccessary steps in addressing sexual violence at UH. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of UH students.

Sincerely,

Emma Stierhoff

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:38:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Jarvis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Olivia Jarvis and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i Hilo. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB554 to codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on University of Hawai'i campuses as well as establish crucial supports for student survivors such as an amnesty policy and a guaranteed trauma-informed response from school staff.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups reporting higher rates of violence in 2021 while attending the University of Hawai'i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources in 2021, change is urgently required to help students connect with the help they need to continue their education.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of all UH students across Hawai'i, please pass HB554.

Signed,

Olivia Jarvis

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:16:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:32:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Rummel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Matthew Rummel, a sophomore at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB554 to codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on the University of Hawai‘i campuses and establish crucial supports for student survivors such as an amnesty policy and a guaranteed trauma-informed response from school staff.

During my freshman year 21-22, four of my friends who were also freshmen at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa had experienced sexual assault. One of which had experienced twice during their freshman year, resulting in them dropping out. I am testifying because they did not have the resources to assist them afterward. Sexual assault is no light matter and there should be reliable and easily accessible resources available for the students of UH.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups reporting higher rates of violence in 2021 while attending the University of Hawai‘i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources in 2021, change is urgently required to help students connect with the help they need to continue their education.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and well-being of all UH students across Hawai‘i, please pass HB554.

Signed,

Matthew Rummel

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 9:32:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hartmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hannah Hartmann and I am a graduate student in the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) program at the University of Hawai'i Hilo. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB554 to codify annual prevention and awareness programming around sexual assault on the University of Hawai'i campuses as well as establish crucial supports for student survivors such as an amnesty policy and a guaranteed trauma-informed response from school staff.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups (one of which I am a part of) reporting higher rates of violence in 2021 while attending the University of Hawai'i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources in 2021, change is urgently required to help students connect with the help they need to continue their education.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and well-being of all UH students across Hawai'i, please pass HB554.

Mahalo nui,

Hannah Hartmann

96720

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 4:11:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 9:24:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of this committee

This is absolutely necessary and especially after experiencing human trafficking on Hawai'i Island we know our young college students are and have been faced with rape, sexual assault and harassment and more.

Strengthening campus safety protocols to ensure that students are adequately protected from escalating incidents of abuse is a matter of statewide concern. Please support HB554 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for your time.

Maki Morinoue
96725

LATE

HB-554-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:05:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of HB554 HD2 SD1.

College campuses should be safe from sexual and domestic violence. However, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, 13% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation.

Incidents of sexual and domestic violence are also pervasive on college campuses in Hawai'i. More than 19% of students who were in a partnered relationship while enrolled at the University of Hawai'i reported having experienced dating violence or domestic violence. In addition, about 10% said they had been sexually harassed or stalked, and 6.3% reported nonconsensual sexual contact, according to a survey of students released by the university in January 2018.

Strengthening campus safety protocols to ensure that students are adequately protected from escalating incidents of abuse is a matter of statewide concern. Please support HB554 HD2 SD1.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili