



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1968, H.D. 2, RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024

**TIME:** 9:45 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Lee Ying Kwok, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments and concerns.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the remedies available to victims of child sexual abuse under section 657-1.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

The proposed amendments to section 657-1.8(a) would extend the statute of limitations for a victim of child sexual abuse committed on or after July 1, 2024, to bring a civil claim for monetary damages against any person from eight years to thirty-two years after the eighteenth birthday of the victim. (page 3, lines 18-19); and from three years to five years after the date the victim discovers or reasonably should have discovered that psychological injury or illness occurring after the victim's eighteenth birthday was caused by the sexual abuse that occurred when the victim was a minor (page 3, line 20, through page 4, line 3), whichever occurs later (page 4, line 4).

We understand that victims of sexual abuse may need additional time before they are ready to file a lawsuit but want to note some concerns. Because the contemplated amendments will extend the statute of limitations for incidents of sexual abuse occurring after July 1, 2024, by not just years, but decades, this lengthy passage of time would likely prejudice the parties involved in a lawsuit. The integrity of the evidence becomes strained as memories fade, witnesses relocate or pass away, and documents are lost or destroyed. Testimony by witnesses, even if they are available,

becomes unreliable. Most state agencies have records retention policies that call for the destruction of documents after a certain period of time that is often much less than thirty-two years, which creates further evidentiary challenges.

Moreover, with respect to the challenges of document retention, we note that although documents have increasingly been saved electronically in recent years, there are still issues with the cost and feasibility of retention over the span of decades. Each state agency that may be named in such a lawsuit has its own retention policies to cut down on cost. Additionally, even if documents are stored electronically, they are subject to loss for various reasons, including natural disaster, human error, and mechanical failures.

In addition to the document preservation issue, the biggest issue remains the availability of witnesses. When a case is brought 20-30 years after an alleged incident, the witnesses, including the alleged perpetrator, are often dead or missing, and it becomes next to impossible for the State to defend a case.

We respectfully recommend either not changing the deadline to file a claim or making the extension to file much shorter than proposed. If the committee is still inclined to pass this bill, our suggestion is to raise the statute of limitations for incidents of sexual abuse occurring after July 1, 2024, from eight years to fifteen years, instead of thirty-two years. This less-extensive period will ensure a greater likelihood that plaintiffs will be able to actually face their perpetrator to demand justice, instead of suing large parties only tangentially associated with the perpetrator. This less-extensive period will also make it more likely that documents are still in existence to be used as evidence, and that there will be witnesses that State can use in their defense.

We would be happy to work with the Legislature to find the best solution that is fair to all parties. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



March 27, 2024

Senate's Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 9:45 AM

**RE: SUPPORT for House Bill 1968 with Amendments**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in support of the intent and requesting amendments to Senate Bill 2601 on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization.

HB 1968 would expand the time period by which a civil action for childhood sexual abuse may be initiated, including an otherwise time-barred action. Authorizes a court to require personnel of legal entities to undergo training on trauma-informed response.

As you may know, eliminating the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse has been a priority for the Stonewall Caucus for a long time. In part this due to the fact that LGBTQIA+ youth have historically been targets of pedophiles, but mainly because it is a social justice issue. That being said the Stonewall Caucus does support the intent of SB 2601 but the Stonewall Caucus prefers the language found in Senate Bill 952. The reason we are advocating for the language in SB 952 inserted into HB 1968 is that SB 952:

1. Removes the statute of limitations entirely.

Telling survivors of sexual assault that happened as a minor that they have to come to terms with the assault and then be able to face their sexual predators by the time they are 50 years old is unconscionable. The time it takes for a survivor to be able to come to terms with having their childhood destroyed by a sexual predator and then recovering from the PTSD caused by sexual assault is not linear. Each person is different and every survivor deserves a chance to turn to the courts for justice.

We already had a pilot project for this which did sunset in 2020 and there were NO problems for the cases that were brought during this window. By placing the 50-year time limit this bill awards sexual predators that are able to "run out the clock".

2. Allows for punitive damages.

Survivors of sexual assault that took place when they were minors need to have access to the possibility of punitive damages if they are ever going to find lawyers to help them see justice which HB 483 provides.

3. Has restorative justice measures available to the courts.  
When an institution is involved the Stonewall Caucus believes that "restorative justice measures" is a much more encompassing term than the language that appears in SB 2601.

We also want to point out that there is no statute of limitations for criminal charges for perpetrators of sexual assault of minors. As you know the bar for conviction in those criminal trials is extremely high so when a survivor sexual assault may not be able to get justice through a criminal trial should this bill become law it will give them an avenue to seek justice.

As our State has seen from the blight of sexual predators being protected here in Hawai'i including but not limited to Roman Catholic Church, Boy Scouts of America, Kamehameha Schools, and now maybe even with the accused serial pedophile at Punahou Schools. These organizations are not the only reason for the need of these amendments. As it was pointed out in the testimony provided by [Child USA Advocacy pointed out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of their testimony](#) for the HB 582 in front of JHA - 51% of the survivors come forward on or after the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Without this bill way too many survivors are being denied access to all avenues of justice.

Other jurisdictions back on the continent have removed the statute of limitations for survivors of sexual assault as minors for civil cases and they have not seen the insurmountable problems that it appears the AG's office thinks will happen.

We understand it may be difficult for the AG's office but we side with the survivors who had their childhoods destroyed by a sexual predator.

With these amendments the Stonewall Caucus would **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB 2601. Without these amendments the Stonewall Caucus can only support this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

**TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE  
HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 1968 HD2**

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Time: 9:45 a.m.

My name is Evan Oue and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB 1968 HD2, Relating to Sexual Abuse of Minors.

HAJ supports this measure, if applied retroactively, which expands the timeframe by which a civil action for a childhood sexual abuse may be initiated. This measure increases the timeframe from 8 to 32 years after a victim's eighteenth birthday. Further, the timeframe is expanded from three to five years after the date the victim discovers or reasonably should have discovered that psychological injury and illness occurring after the victim's eighteenth birthday.

HAJ appreciates the intent of the legislature to extend the timeframe for sexual abuse victims to bring their cases forward. While we believe abolition of the statute of limitations for such offenses would be appropriate, an expansion to age 50 years old will allow greater access to justice for sexual abuse victims who may have difficulties coming forward. The proposed measure properly accounts for the challenges that victims face when electing to pursue justice.

Furthermore, HAJ strongly supports the retroactive applicability of the statute of limitations extensions in this measure. This measure: 1) sends a message to survivors that our state recognizes the lengthy process of coming forward and the necessity of long-term therapy; and 2) properly accounts for the challenges that victims face when electing to pursue justice.

SB 2601 HD1 is consistent with the legislature's intent to increase access to justice for victims that have struggled coming forward and prevents victims from being barred from seeking justice solely based on when the assault occurred.

Accordingly, we strongly urge the committee to considering reverting the language back to the original version of the bill to allow for the extension from 8 to 32 years to apply to sexual abuse that occurred prior to July 1, 2024. Such an amendment would truly increase access to justice from victims that have experienced sexual abuse and are going through the recovery process.

Thank you for allowing us to testify regarding this measure. Please feel free contact us should you have any questions or desire additional information.

## TESTIMONY OF ALISON UEOKA

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 2, 2024  
9:45 a.m.

### **HB 1968, HD2**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Alison Ueoka, President of Hawaii Insurers Council. The Hawaii Insurers Council is a non-profit trade association of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Hawaii. Member companies underwrite approximately forty percent of all property and casualty insurance premiums in the state.

Hawaii Insurers Council appreciates the intent of this bill and sympathizes with claimants who were victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Hawaii Insurers Council does not take a position on the extension of the statute of limitations for actions against persons who committed the act of childhood sexual abuse.

However, Hawaii Insurers Council offers the following comments about the potential impact of the bill on the availability and cost of liability insurance for legal entities, and therefore opposes the bill.

The bill extends the statute of limitations for sexual abuse committed on or after July 1, 2024, against legal entities that (a) employed the person who committed the act of sexual abuse; or (b) had a degree of responsibility or control over the activity engaged in by the abuser and the victim. In other words, under the bill, legal entities that meet either of these criteria would be subject to suit up to the later to occur of the following dates: (a) thirty-two (32) years after the eighteenth birthday of the victim; or (b) five (5) years after the victim discovers or

reasonably should have discovered that the victim's psychological injury or illness occurring after the victim's eighteenth birthday was caused by the sexual abuse.

From an evidentiary and proof standpoint, this virtually limitless time to file suit against legal entities, especially under the second trigger, would prejudice entities and their liability insurers' ability to defend against the claims. By the time a suit is filed in childhood sexual abuse actions, the perpetrator and witnesses may have long since died or moved away. The memories of witnesses who still are available probably will have faded or become distorted over time. Documents also may have been lost or destroyed. These evidentiary problems will be exacerbated if the statute of limitations against legal entities is extended by this bill.

If this bill is enacted, liability insurers most likely will hesitate offering liability insurance to legal entities for sexual abuse claims, especially when the entities engage in activities where employees and minors interact as part of the entities' business. The insurers' reluctance to sell liability protection is exacerbated because the bill makes the statute of limitations for claims against legal entities virtually limitless. As noted above, liability insurers' defense of legal entities would be hampered by the loss of witnesses, recollections and documents. Therefore, the bill most likely would restrict the availability of liability insurance and make the purchase of liability insurance cost-prohibitive for many legal entities serving the interests and needs of minors.

We request the bill be held. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





April 2, 2024

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Chair Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard  
Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante  
Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Sen. Brenton Awa

Re: HB1968 HD2 Relating to Sexual Abuse of Minors

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) addresses the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters. On behalf of HSCADV and our 28 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of HB1968 HD2**.

The bill provides for the time extension to file a civil action by 32 years after the minor turns 18 years old. This would allow a victim who was sexually abused as a child to bring a civil suit by the age of 50 years, which is in line with the national trend extending the civil statute limitations to age 50 and beyond, as well as those states that have eliminated the civil statute of limitations altogether.

**It is well documented that children of sexual abuse delay their disclosure of abuse, oftentimes for many years. This is especially true for children who suffer chronic abuse within their homes, by a close family member.** The grooming of child to keep secret their abuse can have long-lasting effects, impacting the ability to disclose their abuse as they grow older. While it is hoped and encouraged that children will immediately come forward, disclosure is a process and typically comes, only when that child feels safe, that the disclosure will not result in further harm to themselves or loved ones. It can take years, in some situations decades for a victim of sexual violence to feel comfortable and safe enough to disclose being abused. Extending to civil state of limitations to 32 years beyond age 18, will give victims of child abuse the time needed to heal, and find the strength to come forward and seek a form of justice.

In the past, the Hawai'i legislature opened windows of time to allow retroactive civil suits to be filed. To be clear, HB1968 HD2 is not retroactive and applies explicitly to prospective



claims. That said, when retroactive suits were made permissible the public was provided a glimpse of institutional sexual abuse that was occurring against children. What we learned is that 1) children delay disclosure and are often not ready to speak of their abuse until many years later and 2) that sexual abuse of children is often perpetrated against them by someone they or their family members, know and trust. According to the Centers for Disease and Control, 91% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone close to the child. This sad, but true fact lends itself to the delayed disclosure of children, making this legislation more imperative than ever.

This bill seeks to protect children who are being abused now, and those who will be abused in the future. And yes, there are many. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys are impacted by sexual violence by the time they reach 18 years of age. In FY 2023 alone, the SATC provided services to over 1000 new clients, 47% of whom were children. The statistics are staggering and only account for those children we are aware of. Think of the many who remain silent and will continue to be silenced without this legislation.

We respectfully ask that this bill be passed with due haste and renew your commitment to protecting our keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director



# Hawai'i Psychological Association

*For a Healthy Hawai'i*

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair**  
**Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

**April 2, 2024 9:45 A.M. Conf Rm 16 & via Video conference**

## **Testimony in Support of HB1968 HD2 RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS**

The Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA) strongly supports HB1968 HD2 which will extend the period during which a victim of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) may bring an otherwise time-barred action against the victim's abuser or a legal entity having a duty of care; and authorizes courts to require training for defendant entities in "trauma-informed" care.

This legislation will not only bring long overdue justice to survivors, but it will also greatly reduce the present danger to children in Hawai'i by exposing hidden predators who are still abusing children today.

The members of the Hawaii Psychological Association provide mental health treatment for many children and adults who are survivors of CSA, and we know that this legislation is needed by the people we serve. We applaud the legislators who have introduced this important measure.

This testimony draws on extensive social science research, including the work of many psychologists. Most of this information was compiled by the national advocacy group Child USA (<https://childusa.org>) which focuses on laws and issues related to child abuse and neglect, and which has worked on reforming statutes of limitation (SOL) in many states.

There is a lot of information available that is relevant to this proposed legislation. We would like to emphasize several major conclusions from the literature:

- A. **Child sexual abuse is prevalent:** in several meta-analyses, prevalence rates of CSA were 20% or higher for girls in North America and over 7% for boys.<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- B. **CSA causes serious emotional and psychological damage to the young people who are victimized:** in one study, female CSA survivors were two to four times more likely to attempt suicide, and male CSA survivors were four to 11 times more likely to attempt suicide.<sup>4</sup>
- C. **Research on the effects of trauma from CSA demonstrates that delays in disclosure of the abuse are common – often delays of several decades.** In one study, 44.9% of male victims and 25.4% of female victims of CSA delayed discussing their abuse with anyone for more than 20 years.<sup>5</sup> Another study found that between 70% and 95% of child sexual assault victims never report the abuse to authorities.<sup>6</sup>

**D. Victims and society benefit when perpetrators are held accountable even years after the abuse:**  
Research has found a higher rate of PTSD symptoms in CSA victims delaying disclosure compared to those who did not delay disclosure.<sup>5</sup> Whenever disclosure occurs, it potentially can prevent victimization of other children. One study found that 7% of offenders sampled committed offenses against more than 40 children, and the highest time between offense and conviction was 36 years.<sup>6</sup> By allowing claims for past abuse to be brought to court, hidden predators are brought into the light and are prevented from further abusing more children.

We urge the committee to pass HB1968 and ensure that survivors of sexual abuse can seek compensation for their years of suffering even if it takes them many years to sort out their feelings and report what happened to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important bill.

Sincerely,



Raymond A Folen, Ph.D., ABPP.  
Executive Director

### *References*

<sup>1</sup>G. Moody, et. al., *Establishing the international prevalence of self-reported child maltreatment: a systematic review by maltreatment type and gender*, 18(1164) *BMC PUBLIC HEALTH* (2018)

<sup>2</sup>M. Stoltenborgh, et. al., *A Global Perspective on Child Sexual Abuse: Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Around the World*, 16(2) *CHILD MALTREATMENT* 79 (2011)

<sup>3</sup>N. Pereda, et. al., *The prevalence of child sexual abuse in community and student samples: A meta-analysis*, 29 *CLINICAL PSYCH. REV.* 328, 334 (2009).

<sup>4</sup>Beth E. Molnar et al., *Psychopathology, Childhood Sexual Abuse and other Childhood Adversities: Relative Links to Subsequent Suicidal Behaviour in the US*, 31 *PSYCHOL. MED.* 965 (2001).

<sup>5</sup>Patrick J. O'Leary & James Barber, *Gender Differences in Silencing following Childhood Sexual Abuse*, 17 *J. CHIL. SEX. ABUSE* 133 (2008).

<sup>6</sup>Kamala London et al., *Review of the Contemporary Literature on How Children Report Sexual Abuse to Others: Findings, Methodological Issues, and Implications for Forensic Interviewers*, 16 *MEMORY* 29, 31 (2008)

<sup>7</sup>Sarah E. Ullman, *Relationship to Perpetrator, Disclosure, Social Reactions, and PTSD Symptoms in Child Sexual Abuse Survivors*, 16 *J. CHILD SEX. ABUSE* 19, 30 (2007).

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 3:52:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee.

I am writing in strong support of HB1968.

This bill marks a step forward in prioritizing the needs of survivors and recognizing the enduring impact of child sexual abuse. By extending the window for initiating civil action, we can provide survivors with a vital opportunity to voice their experiences, find validation, and pursue the healing and justice they rightfully deserve. Current constraints often deny survivors these crucial avenues for recourse.

Moreover, this bill empowers courts to mandate trauma-informed training for personnel within implicated legal entities. This measure helps foster a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Breanna Zoey (she/they)

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 6:46:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katlin Cilliers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Date:** March 27, 2024

**To:**

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa , Vice-Chair

Members of the Committee on Finance

**From:** Katlin Cilliers, M.S.W. Student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**RE:** Testimony on HB 1968 (Relating to Sex Abuse of Minors)

Dear representatives Kyle Yamashita, Lisa Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Katlin Cilliers and I am writing **in support of** HB 1968 – Relating to Sex Abuse of Minors. This bill is a step forward in ensuring the extension of the rights of survivors of sexual abuse in a way that allows a longer span of time (from 8 to 32 years) to come forward and seek justice for the harm done to them.

As a worker in the social services field, I have witnessed clients struggle with the ripple effects of their lived experiences of abuse in its many forms, including sexual abuse. Healing from such devastating experiences takes time and being able to voice one's concerns and seek justice should not be held and bound by time frames – HB 1968 addresses that need.

On top of that, it is paramount that the court system and its workers are well-equipped to support survivors as they navigate the murky waters of re-telling their stories of sexual abuse. Therefore, **I strongly support** the second portion of the bill, which allows court workers to be required to undergo specialized training on trauma-informed responses to help individuals navigate this process. I must add that trauma-informed care training should be made available across the board: from client advocates to those working in administrative, clerical, and other positions in the judiciary. It is my hope that Law as an institution will be taking one's humanity into account in legal matters. After all, this bill addresses first and foremost, some of a person's deepest wounds while seeking justice – and as such, the legal system should be mindful of that and thread accordingly.

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 9:41:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody Shiroma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1968.

This bill marks a step forward in prioritizing the needs of survivors and recognizing the enduring impact of child sexual abuse. By extending the window for initiating civil action, we can provide survivors with a vital opportunity to voice their experiences, find validation, and pursue the healing and justice they rightfully deserve. Current constraints often deny survivors these crucial avenues for recourse.

This bill empowers courts to mandate trauma-informed training for personnel within implicated legal entities. This measure also helps foster a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 10:55:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a trauma-informed state, it's important we pass this bill.

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 4:04:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anuhea Sridharan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha mai kakou,**

**My name is Anuhea Sridharan I am a Masters of Social Work student at UH Manoa and have been working professionally with youth for four years, many of whom are the survivors of child sexual abuse. I am writing to support HB1968.**

**This bill is vital for supporting survivors of child sexual abuse. By extending the window for initiating legal action, recognizes that healing from the lasting impact of child sexual abuse takes time and empowers survivors by allowing them an opportunity to speak up when they are ready. The current time frame creates a barrier to justice for survivors of child sexual abuse.**

**Additionally, I support this bill due to its measures mandating trauma-informed training for legal staff. It's important for the wellbeing of survivors of child sexual abuse and supporting justice in our communities that all personnel survivors interact have attained a basic competence of the dynamics of child sexual abuse and its lasting impact, so that staff response does not create a barrier to seeking civil action, or that these interactions do not deepen the lasting impact of child sexual abuse.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I am hopeful that this bill will support the healing of and justice for survivors and help create safer communities for our keiki.**

**Mahalo,**

**Anuhea Sridharan**



**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 5:01:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hannah Diaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee.

I am writing in strong support of HB1968.

This bill marks a step forward in prioritizing the needs of survivors and recognizing the enduring impact of child sexual abuse. By extending the window for initiating civil action, we can provide survivors with a vital opportunity to voice their experiences, find validation, and pursue the healing and justice they rightfully deserve. Current constraints often deny survivors these crucial avenues for recourse.

Moreover, this bill empowers courts to mandate trauma-informed training for personnel within implicated legal entities. This measure helps foster a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hannah Diaz

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 8:48:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1968 with amendments. The Statute of Limitations should be removed. Each survivor of sexual abuse or assault must work through that period of horror. While some can come forward early on, most of the survivors who I have met and finally were able to publicly tell their story came about when they were over 50 years of age. In one particular story, I heard firsthand, one brother came forward to tell what happened to him as a youth. His brother would not talk about his similar experiences. He still needed additional time to process what happened to him. This is why there should be no statute of limitations.

I still encourage your committee to pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 8:59:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support

**HB-1968-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 9:51:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee members,

I write in strong support of HB1968 HD1.

This bill marks a step forward in prioritizing the needs of survivors and recognizing the enduring impact of child sexual abuse. By extending the window for initiating civil action, we can provide survivors with a vital opportunity to voice their experiences, find validation, and pursue the healing and justice they rightfully deserve. Current constraints often deny survivors these crucial avenues for recourse.

Moreover, this bill empowers courts to mandate trauma-informed training for personnel within implicated legal entities. This measure fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

For the health of victims, their communities, and the state overall, I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)