



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

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

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2024 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

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

Chair Tarnas 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 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 regardless of when the incident occurred (page 3, lines 5-8); 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, lines 9–13), whichever occurs later.

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 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.

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. 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.



Date: January 30, 2024

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Lynn Costales Matsuoka, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

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

Hearing: February 1, 2024, Conference Room 325; 2:00pm

Good morning, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) is in strong support of HB1968.

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 situation's 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 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 someone they or their family members, know and trust. According to the Center of 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 them 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 submit testimony in support of HB 1968.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:10:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn M Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	In Person

Comments:

Greetings Chair and Committee Members,

Rainbow Family 808 is a nonprofit organization focused on Advocacy, Education and Support. For over a decade, we have been standing up for the needed justice of our families injured by rape of children, minors and families in our community.

While we support the intent of this measure, it needs additions to HB1968 for much needed clarification.

1. Add rape to sexual abuse in order to state clearly and definitely the horror of the crime committed on children by family members, clergy, coaches, youth ministers, teachers and all those in positions of power.
2. Delete all time limitations in order to Erase the Statutes of Limitations from the Hawaii State Statutes. It's criminal to continue any time line that prevents justice for our children from birth to end of life. This will reinstate the motto: Our Keiki are precious people. The present time line is a criminal loophole for those who rape. In the words of high ranking military rapist, "I'll never leave Hawaii because my friends and I are safe here." This quote is part of the public record from the years of discussion in the capitol on this very subject on previous bills in the House and the Senate.

I comment those people who continue year after year to testify in order to bring justice for the survivors and the victims of Rape and Sex Abuse to the minors in Hawai'i.

Thank you,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

Founder and President of Rainbow Family 808



TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

HB 1968, RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** HB 1968, relating to sexual abuse of minors. In 2016, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's State Convention delegates adopted a resolution calling for an end to the statute of limitations for sexual assault, especially for minors (GOV 2016-01).

According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, self-report studies show that 20 percent of adult females and 5 to 10 percent of adult males in the U.S recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident. Over 50 percent of the sex trafficking victim population we serve experienced childhood sexual trauma.

According to peer reviewed psychiatric research, **between 60 and 80 percent of childhood sexual abuse victims withhold disclosure, often because of limited access to quality psychological care and social attitudes that induce shame about victimization.** We must allow these survivors as much time as possible to speak out and receive justice, so that they do not spend the rest of their lives suffering in silence.

We are heartened by this measure's emphasis on trauma-informed care. Given the severity of the trauma inflicted by perpetrators of childhood

sexual violence, we believe that it is entirely appropriate for trauma-informed services and training to be prioritized in the process of making a victim whole, especially since so many survivors of sexual violence have been shamed, silenced, and re-traumatized for the pain they've endured.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kris Coffield

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

(808) 679-7454

kriscoffield@gmail.com

Abby Simmons

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

(808) 352-6818

abbyalana808@gmail.com



HB 1968, RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 · JHA HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HB 1968, relating to sexual abuse of minors, which expands the time period by which a civil action for childhood sexual abuse may be initiated, including an otherwise time-barred action; and authorizes a court to require personnel of legal entities to undergo training on trauma-informed response.

Imua Alliance is a victim service provider for survivors of sex trafficking, who often suffer childhood sexual abuse before being exploited in our state's prolific slave trade. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention (victim rescue) services to 200, 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.

Accordingly, we support measures to advance our state's ability to crack down on sexual slavery, including this measure's extension of the statutory limitations on the time period in which a survivor of childhood sexual abuse may file a civil action. According to the National Center for Victims of

Crime, self-report studies show that 20 percent of adult females and 5 to 10 percent of adult males in the U.S recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident. Over 50 percent of the sex trafficking victim population we serve experienced childhood sexual trauma. According to peer reviewed psychiatric research, **between 60 and 80 percent of childhood sexual abuse victims withhold disclosure, often because of limited access to quality psychological care and social attitudes that induce shame about victimization.** We must allow these survivors as much time as possible to speak out and receive justice, so that they do not spend the rest of their lives suffering in silence.

We are heartened by this measure's emphasis on trauma-informed care. Given the severity of the trauma inflicted by perpetrators of childhood sexual violence, we believe that it is entirely appropriate for trauma-informed services and training to be prioritized in the process of making a victim whole, especially since so many survivors of sexual violence have been shamed, silenced, and re-traumatized for the pain they've endured.

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



To: Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 1 2024 2:00 PM

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1968

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **supports HB 1968** which would expand the time period by which a civil action for childhood sexual abuse may be initiated and requires those involved to undergo training on trauma-informed response.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC has experience with many child sexual abuse survivors who were not ready, willing or able to pursue legal recourse for their abuse until they had addressed the impact of the trauma and very much supports the expansion of time for civil action. Given the impact of such trauma on survivors, we are grateful for the addition of trauma-responsive training for court personnel and all involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

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

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

HAJ supports this measure 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.

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



January 30, 2024

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2022 at 2:00 PM

RE: SUPPORT for House Bill 1968 with Amendments

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and fellow committee members,

I am writing in support of the intent and requesting amendments to House Bill 582 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 HB 1968 but the Stonewall Caucus prefers the language found in House Bill 483. The reason we are advocating for the language in HB 483 inserted into HB 1968 is that HB 483:

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 damaged.

Survivors of sexual assault that took place when they were minors need to have

Stonewall Caucus Testimony is Support of House Bill 1968 with Amendments

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 HB 1968.

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 2nd page of their testimony](#) for the HB 582 in front of JHA - 51% of the survivors come forward on or after the 50th 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** HB 1968. 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

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:24:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB1968 & any amendments submitted by the Stonewall Caucus.
Please move this important bill forward. Thanks.

Mike Golojuch, Board Member/Secretary

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:05:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and esteemed members of the Committee,

I support this bill and hope you will support it too.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Abby Simmons

Hawaii Island

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:30:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey A Drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this very important bill. Victims should have as many rights and recourses as possible. Thank you.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:03:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very much in support of HB1968 which would expand the amount of time to bring civil actions for sexual abuse. I also think that the provisions requiring training on sexual abuse allegations are really important.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of children.

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

District 4

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:57:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebeca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Rebecca. I am a member of the community that has been affected not only by the aftermath of Child Sexual Abuse, but I have been affected by, just as importantly, the aftermath of trusting a member of the community with High Social Standing to help me deal with this abuse endured as a child as a young adult. This respected member of the community, nearly 20 years older than myself, took advantage of me in my vulnerability in the worse way in the vital years of my life: My young adult formative years. He confirmed me into the Catholic church. I was over 18, but still very young. According to him, he has done this to many young girls and women, the youngest citing ages 14 in Kailua. He said that it was nothing illegal "it was the legal age at the time".

I am not yet comfortable naming this Person who was a highly respected member of the community, as he was very high in the Catholic church, and went on to take extremely high positions in Government. He currently is an Executive Director at a Highly respected Medical Association. He was able to get these positions only due to his ability to say "I

quit the Priesthood" But in reality, he abused children and vulnerable women. He was told Quit or have a record.

He has also settled out of court on 2 child sex abuse cases. One was public, one was private.

When I came forward about the abuse of this member of society, I had to endure horrendous investigation strategies. I had to be questioned by private investigators, take a Polygraph (and passed), I had to explain and re explain what happened to me. This man violated me in the worse way, using his power and authority. Abuse of a vulnerable adult is as horrendous as Child SA. In my case, as a double victim of abuse, I can honestly say that the abuse by the man in power and authority was by far worse than the abuse I endured as a child.

The long term effects of this abuse have been devastating. I am Disabled, due to many Severe Autoimmune illnesses that surfaced during the Investigative process, and the aftermath of the Trauma. I have been unable to hold jobs, go to religious gatherings, hold relationships, have a normal life. I was told my Autoimmune Illness that Disabled me was brought on by the Trauma of the abuse by the man in Power, as well as the investigative process. I have suffered Mentally in a way no human should have to endure.

While CSA is horrific, so is the Abuse of Vulnerable persons of those in power. I am asking that both HB1968 and the future Adult Survivors Act be signed into law as it is now in many states such as: New York, California, Maine, and many others. Please make the Adult Survivors Act as well as

the Child Survivors act a reality so this cannot happen to any adult or child again.

As this Man in Power once said about having inappropriate relationships with girls age 14, "It was legal in Hawai'i at the time" therefore it was acceptable. Let's work together to make it unacceptable.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:00:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you,
Breanna Zoey (she/they)

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:04:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:34:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucie Schragger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Hawaii House Bill 1968, which addresses a crucial aspect of justice and survivor support related to childhood sexual abuse. As a concerned resident of Hawai‘i, I believe that this legislation is pivotal in acknowledging the long-lasting impact of childhood sexual abuse and ensuring that survivors have the opportunity for justice and healing.

Hawaii House Bill 1968 proposes two significant measures:

1. **Expanding the Time Period for Civil Action:** The bill recognizes the unique challenges survivors of childhood sexual abuse face in coming forward and seeks to extend the time within which a civil action may be initiated. This extension is a vital step in acknowledging the often complex and delayed nature of survivors' disclosures, ensuring that justice can be sought even years after the abuse occurred.
2. **Authorizing Trauma-Informed Response Training:** Another commendable aspect of the bill is its authorization for courts to require personnel of legal entities to undergo training on trauma-informed response. This reflects a forward-thinking approach to handling cases of childhood sexual abuse, recognizing the importance of understanding and responding to survivors in a way that is sensitive to the trauma they have experienced.

These measures are not only essential for ensuring justice for survivors but also for fostering a culture of empathy, understanding, and support within our legal system. By expanding the time period for civil action and promoting trauma-informed response training, Hawaii House Bill 1968 takes a significant step toward creating an environment that encourages survivors to come forward and seek the justice they deserve.

I commend the sponsors and supporters of this bill for their dedication to addressing the unique challenges faced by survivors of childhood sexual abuse. It is my sincere hope that you will consider the positive impact that Hawaii House Bill 1968 can have on the lives of survivors and the broader community.

I urge you to support the passage of this bill, as it represents a crucial and compassionate response to a deeply sensitive issue. By doing so, we can contribute to a legal system that is not only just but also supportive and understanding of survivors' experiences.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Lucie S.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:07:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and JHA Committee,

I write 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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:29:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:20:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stand in SUPPORT

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:50:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Hauk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB582 and extend my deepest appreciation to those of you who continue to advocate for justice on behalf of victims of childhood sexual abuse. Although not eloquent, I have been an outspoken proponent, providing testimony in person, via Zoom, and through written submissions, often traveling great distances. Hawai'i's youth must receive far better protection than I did fifty-five years ago by offering consequences and deterrence to predators.

Over the past nine years, I have unwaveringly supported bills aimed at extending the statute of limitations for civil suits concerning victims of childhood sexual assault. I have seen bills quietly set with effective dates 40 years into the future, only to watch them pass through the House and Senate three times each, then languish in special committees without public awareness. Today, I hold hope that the outcome may be different.

I request this esteemed committee not to amend the bill as is but to, send it to the Senate as is. Allow and support an effective date upon passing. Allow the Senate to vote on this law with true Aloha, approaching survivors with empathy and compassion at the core of your deliberations.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the courageous representatives who persist in championing this crucial reform.

Mahalo,

Sheryl Hauk

Child of Hawai'i / Sexually Abused Trauma Survivor

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:15:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Representatives and Senators!

My name is Christine Johnson.

I am a retired Registered Nurse and i am a current and past advocate and activist for Statute of Limitations Child and ADULT Sexual Assault Law reform.

I participated in the first Hawaii 2 year window bill by proposing a 2 year window instead of the one year window initially introduced. (2011 i did that)

I am a survivor of ritual sexual assault and torture by catholic nuns in NYS as a girl . and by Jesuit catholic priests as an adult in Santa Barbara California..

I began my volunteer work for Sexual Abuse victims in 1985 when my son was sexually assaulted by a Jesuit catholic priest who pled guilty (no contest) and received only 2 years probation and was out of the priesthood, married with 2 children while my son and i were entrapped in the "legal justice" system that punished victims and freed perpetrators.

In fact the judge on our case had to resign for misconduct.

I have all legal and other documents that validate my story.

My son told me about his abuse right after it happened.

We needed no window, however we learned first hand how the church and priesthood deliberately tries to run out the SOL so victims miss filing civil suits.

(i did win a settlement for my son.. it took 6 years. a corrupt judge and jesuits trying to exterminate us before the measley settlement happend).

I hope that Hawaii will continue to explore and provide help for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and all crimes.

Until we hold perpetrators/criminals accountable and show consequences for their behavior, nothing will change.

Until we respect Victim/survivors and their struggles to survive and heal the merry go round will continue..

Respectfully,

Christine Johnson retired Registered Nurse

Makaha, Hawaii 96792

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HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:34:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Mahalo,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:28:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerestin Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Thank you.

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:32:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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 fosters a deeper comprehension of sexual abuse dynamics and promotes environments that offer robust support and proactive, trauma-informed responses to survivors.

Mahalo,

Lisa Lee

LATE

HB-1968

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:16:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIFFANY KIM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB1968. As a survivor of CSA, I can attest to the delay in reporting and the trauma of feeling as though it is too late. Extending the time period by which civil action can be taken will give more survivors a chance to hold those accountable for perpetuating these acts.

TIFFANY KIM

EWA BEACH, HAWAII