

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 04/04/2016

**Time:** 09:15 AM

**Location:** 211

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means Senate  
Judiciary and Labor

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1787, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula. Effective July 1, 2060. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

While the Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1787 HD2 SD1, it has considerable concerns.

Most notably, with regards to the current measure's expansion to include sex trafficking, the Department strongly urges this Committee to restrict the subject matter to sexual abuse prevention, the original focus of the Erin's Law Task Force.

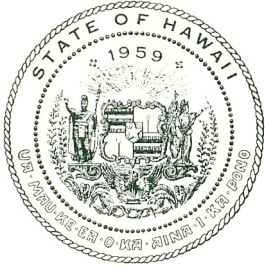
Further, given the expansive composition of this proposed task force and the importance of educator representation, the Department would recommend replacing the Planned Parenthood representative with an elementary teacher and secondary teacher designated by the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

Lastly, the expending agency for the appropriation has been changed from the Legislature to the Department of Education. The Department is appreciative of the Legislature's consideration of an appropriation to support the two-year task force, so long as the implementation of HB 1787 HD2 SD1 would not replace or adversely impact priorities previously indicated in the approved Executive Supplemental Budget.

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



HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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CYD HOFFELD  
JUDY KERN  
MARILYN LEE  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director  
Cathy Betts

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April 4, 2016

**Testimony in Support of HB 1787, HD2, SD1, Relating to Education**

**To:** Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**Re:** Testimony in Support of HB 1787, HD2, SD1, Relating to Education

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in support of HB 1787, HD2, SD1, which would establish an "Erin's Law" Task force to help guide and direct the implementation of a sexual abuse prevention curriculum within our Department of Education.

Sexual abuse is a difficult subject for many people to talk about. Our educators are not immune to this difficulty. Abuse of children can only continue when others are resistant to talking about sexual abuse. Silence about the subject allows predators to continue—when we do not know the warning signs, when our children are scared or threatened into thinking mistreatment is acceptable, when we do not raise awareness about this issue—abusers continue.

Sexual abuse prevention and education is crucial for educators and students to have. While some sexual abuse prevention education is offered to our DOE, implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Yet, children are largely at risk for sexual abuse and remain at high risk of being abused by a family friend or family member.

As a result, public school students may not receive regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education. Parents and guardians may not receive information about child sexual abuse topics; and educators and school staff may not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling disclosures and mandatory reported to child welfare.

An Erin's law taskforce would work with educators and community stakeholders to develop and implement the best practices and curricula, resulting in safer students. The Commission strongly supports HB 1787, HD2, SD1, and respectfully requests that the Committees pass this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB 1787 HD2 SD1 Relating to Education  
DATE: Monday, April 4, 2016  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
ROOM: Conference Room 211  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Acting Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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**Testimony supporting the intent of HB1787 HD2 SD1**

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission supports the intent of House Bill 1787, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 "Relating to Education," which would establish a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse. We appreciate that the task force would include representation from the charter school sector and appropriate funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 9:03 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM\*

**HB1787**

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2016 12:47 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM\*

**HB1787**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Betty Sestak	AAUW Windward	Support	No

Comments:

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# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services  
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family  
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

April 2, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert Keithl-Agaran, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1787 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1787 HD2 SD1 Relating to Education.

One in five girls and one in twenty boys have been victims of child sexual abuse. Three out of four adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well. (National Center for Victims of Crime data).

The only education I received about sexual abuse as a child was to beware of strangers. But it was not a stranger who sexually abused me and five other girls in my fourth grade class – It was my school bus driver. Every child on the bus witnessed the abuse daily for a month or more until someone finally reported it to the school. When we were questioned about it, we believed that we were the ones who had done something wrong.

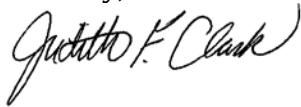
If we had received education about sexual abuse, we would have recognized it immediately, known how to seek help, and understood that we were not to blame for what occurred. It could have been stopped after the first episode.

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "F" and "C".

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2016 4:41 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM\*

**HB1787**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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# THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

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

*Executive Director*  
Adriana Ramelli

*Advisory Board*  
*President*  
Mimi Beams  
*Vice President*  
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Marilyn Carlsmith  
Dawn Ching  
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Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Monica Cobb-Adams  
Donne Dawson  
Dennis Dunn  
Councilmember  
Carol Fukunaga  
David I. Haverly  
Linda Jameson  
Michael P. Matsumoto  
Robert H. Pantell, MD  
Joshua A. Wisch

**DATE:** April 4, 2016

**TO:** The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

**RE:** Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 1787, H.D. 2, S.D. 1  
Relating to Education

Good morning Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and on Ways and Means.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports H.B. 1787 H.D. 2 S.D. 1, which creates and appropriates funds for an Erin's Law task force to guide the establishment of a program to education public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age appropriate curricula; provide relevant training to school teachers and staff; and inform parents about important child sexual abuse topics.

Sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people in the State of Hawaii. Nationally, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been the victim of sexual assault in their lifetimes. Of these, 44% were under the age of 18 at the time of the assault. This is consistent with SATC's experience on Oahu – in 2014, of the 637 victims who sought care for the first time at SATC, 51% were children. It is important to note that these numbers do not reflect the total number of victims on Oahu or in our state, but only those who were able to seek help from our center.

Given the high incidence of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors, it is important that children and young people be taught the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves against sexual violence and obtain help to end abuse as quickly as possible. Moreover, it is critical that those who interact the most with children and young people, including parents, other guardians, educators and school staff, receive sufficient training to understand issues of sexual violence and respond appropriately.

Through a contract with the State Department of Health (DOH), SATC currently delivers training to teachers, counselors and school administrators on a series of age appropriate, evidence-based curricula for sexual abuse prevention education. Each of the four curricula, designed for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd grade through 5th grade, middle school, and high school, were developed locally in close partnership with the State Department of Education (DOE), teachers from both public and private schools, and the University of Hawaii's Teacher Institute of Education, and they all are DOE-approved to fulfill existing health education requirements.

Despite these combined efforts, it is our understanding that implementation of sexual abuse prevention education curricula is not consistent system wide, and resources for the provision of training and education are limited. Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular, consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting.

Laws requiring that public school systems implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education for students, teacher and staff training, and parental involvement, have passed in 26 states and the Territory of Guam, and have been introduced in the legislatures of 17 others. These laws and the programs they would create represent a national trend in safety, health and wellbeing education and are collectively referred to as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education.

H.B. 1787 H.D. 2 S.D. 1 is necessary to provide the State of Hawaii the means to design and plan a strong, sustainable program to consistently make sexual abuse prevention education available to all public school students.

In order to do so, this measure would follow the model of several other states that have successfully adopted Erin's Law, by bringing together stakeholders from the legislature, relevant state agencies and the community in order to collaboratively review existing policies, programs and curricula; assess service gaps and needs; and make well-informed recommendations through a transparent, report-driven process.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to support H.B. 1787 H.D. 2 S.D. 1.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 3:53 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM

**HB1787**

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I submit testimony in strong support of HB1787, HD2, SD1, for the establishment of an Erin's Law Task Force to work on sound policy for the Department of Education to efficiently implement curricula to better educate our students of sex abuse prevention. I believe the Task Force can create solid age appropriate curricula to ensure students are equipped with the proper understanding and educated on sex abuse which will be effective in protecting our children from such a crime. This new policy will ensure that the DOE and State will be working to provide policy to better protect our children against sexual abuse now and in the future. May I respectfully provide a friendly amendment, that the Task Force also add "sex trafficking of minors" to it's proposed curricula, should this measure be passed by your committee. Sex trafficking is an issue that does occur in Hawaii, however it is not covered and garnered the attention that sexual abuse has; nevertheless it is still a concern for our students and families in Hawaii. My second friendly amendment would be to add a public school teacher - appointed by the HSTA, should this measure become law. This will ensure a public school teacher will have input and share the work of the task force. For these reasons, I stand in strong support of HB1787, HD2, SD1.

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