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Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

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April 4, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB1787, HD2 SD1 – Relating to Education – Support
Conference Room 211 – Hawaii State Capitol – April 4, 2016, 9:15 AM**

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HB1787, HD2, SD1 – Relating to Education.

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

This bill would appropriate funds for an Erin's Law Task Force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention through the use of age-appropriate curricula.

Twenty-six states have enacted a model of “Erin’s Law,” named after a child abuse victim in Illinois, that requires all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- Students in grades pre-K – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult;
- School personnel all about child sexual abuse;
- Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

It is estimated that one in ten children will become the victims of child sexual abuse by the time they reach age 18. It’s critical that we provide safeguards to protect children from being prey to child sexual abuse.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that your committees vote to pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 12:25 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1787 on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM

HB1787

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

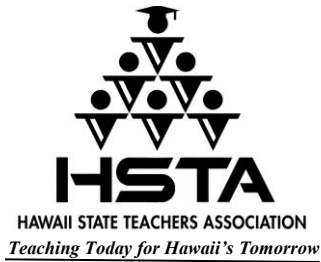
Testimony for JDL/WAM on Apr 4, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Tokuda, Chair Keith-Agaran and members, As in previous testimony, the Coalition is in strong support of this measure. We hope that a task force, properly composed of all stakeholders will move Erin's Law forward to prevent the sex abuse and sex trafficking of young girls that is occurring in our state. Mahalo, Ann S Freed, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

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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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR and WAYS AND MEANS

RE: HB 1787, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1787, HD2, SD1**, relating to education, **with suggested amendments**.

Schools are, perhaps, the one social institution outside of the family in which children have constant contact with adults and their peers. It is an optimal place, then, to identify children in danger of sexual maltreatment.

Teachers are naturally empathetic toward their students. Yet, studies have shown that up to 81 percent of teachers receive little preservice information about abuse and neglect and only 66 percent have been given inservice (on the job) information. As this committee's preamble notes, programs currently exist, in Hawai'i, to train teachers and staff, and provide sexual abuse prevention education to students, but implementation of these programs is woefully inconsistent.

It is important that both teachers and students be informed on how to prevent sexual abuse and handle it when it occurs. Accordingly, we urge you to **add a public school teacher appointed by the Hawaii State Teachers Association to the task force** to ensure that the classroom experience and teacher-student dynamic are given adequate representation.

We are thankful that this bill has been extended to cover sex trafficking. Anti-trafficking lessons are frequently requested by public school teachers to combat student exploitation and are included in coordinated protocols being developed for the Department of Education, Department of Human Service's Child Welfare

System, and Family Courts. Sex trafficking is differentially defined from sexual abuse as the use of “force, fraud, or coercion” in compel someone into the commercial sex trade. Public school students—or children who *should* be in school, but are instead sexually enslaved—can and have been found working as prostitutes at local massage parlors, strip clubs, hostess bars, and the streets of high-risk areas, and are advertised daily on websites like Backpage.com. The average age of a victim’s entry into sexual exploitation is in the early to middle teenage years, with vulnerability to exploitation being heightened by prior traumatic incidents, including sexual abuse. Since schools are primary gathering locations for children, they are also prime targets for pimps, johns, and traffickers, so much so that in 2011, lawmakers added the crime of “solicitation of prostitution near schools or public parks” (HRS 712-1209) to our criminal code. As we increase departmental capacity for intervening in cases sexual abuse, so must we safeguard against the closely related crime of sexual exploitation and provide educators with the tools needed to ease victims’ reentry into the classroom setting.

To protect our keiki from sexual exploitation, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1787, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1,
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair**

**Monday, April 4, 2016, 9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of, with proposed amendments for HB 1787, HD2, SD1, relating to education.

IMUAlliance is one of Hawai'i's leading providers of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade. Victims are typically induced into exploitation between the ages of 12-14, years of heightened developmental vulnerability, and are often predisposed to exploitation by a complex traumatic history that may include child abuse or neglect, assault, sexual abuse, sexual assault, rape, and bullying.

We believe that education ends exploitation. When students are empowered with knowledge about the risk factors of sex trafficking and sexual abuse, they are able to spot the signs of abuse and take action to protect themselves, their peers, and their communities. Moreover, education guards against the psychological impact of abuse, which can include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociative disorder, explosive outbursts, self-injurious and suicidal behavior, and hyper-sexualization.

We are enthused that sex trafficking has been explicitly included as a point of task force consideration in the bill. Sex trafficking is, essentially, a commercialized form of sexual abuse. Moreover, the sex trade is growing on our islands, which are home to an estimated 150 brothels and and 110,000 online ads for local prostitution each year. That said, to ensure that the experiences of anti-trafficking victim service providers and the survivors we serve, as well as the standards-based prevention programs we facilitate in public and private schools, are fully addressed, we humbly **ask that this bill be amended to include a sex trafficking victim service provider as part of the task force.** We also **suggest that a public school teacher be made a member of the task force,** since teachers enable educational programming and curricula, while managing student response and intervention frameworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



1431 Ehupua St. Honolulu, HI 96821 · (808) 854-1148

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR and WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY—HB 1787, HD2, SD1 Relating to Education

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

Jeanné Kapela, UNITE Hawaii Executive Director

POSITION: SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda and committee members,

Hawai'i is home to over 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments, with the average age a victim is first exploited being only 13-years-old. We are also a target for “cybertrafficking,” with over 110,000 ads for local prostitution posted online each year. Yet, the numbers fail to fully capture the human toll of the commercial sex trade, a tragedy we witness each day in the eyes of the survivors we serve.

UNITE is an educational nonprofit devoted to ending sex trafficking in Hawai'i, created by Miss Hawai'i 2015 Jeanné Kapela. Through outreach and awareness in local schools, we provide students with the skills necessary to prevent exploitation by building healthy relationships and learning communities. Our program, “It Ends With Us,” explains how trafficking works in the 21st Century, preparing students to recognize threatening situations and respond to potential abuse. To date, we have provided anti-trafficking education to thousands of keiki in our state's public schools. Working with UNITE's strategic partner, IMUAlliance, we have also helped to emancipate sex trafficking victims from local brothels in the Ala Moana area. For both victims who self-identify at schools we visit and those for whom we've provided direct intervention services, sexual abuse is often noted as a precursor to sex trafficking.

Thus, sexual abuse and sex trafficking are closely related. Yet, they are not the same. While sexual abuse involves forcing undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another, sex trafficking is the compulsion of a person into prostitution by force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers often use intermediate and high school students to build their fortunes, preying upon teenage insecurities, sexual impulses, socioeconomic impoverishment, and, more recently, social media access to recruit, groom, and “break in” our youth for the sex trade. Victims of sex trafficking are highly traumatized to the point that they lose their sense of identity, sometimes becoming so dehumanized that they can no longer understand the concept of rape. Moreover, modern technology has made it easier to reach and threaten victims, as information is readily available on the internet. Online technology can also be weaponized to humiliate individuals through the rapid distribution of nonconsensual pornography.

We are thankful that this bill has been amended to include sex trafficking prevention education as a concept for review by the task force. UNITE employs a standards-based anti-trafficking curriculum that includes a post assessment and service learning component. At each school we visit, students have identified themselves or their peers as in danger or in the midst of being trafficked. Our model is under constant revision to maximize its compliance with best educational practices and newly enacted education policies, and is overseen by professional educators and education specialists. We are currently reviewing its comportment with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. To ensure that the task force hears the strategies of advocates working to end commercial sexual exploitation and, more importantly, survivors of this horrible crime, we request that the executive director of a sex trafficking victim services provider that provides educational programming, like UNITE or our strategic partner IMUAlliance, be added to the task force’s membership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.