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Date: April 11, 2019

To: The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony Supporting S.C.R. 171 S.D. 1
Requesting the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of
requiring health insurers to provide coverage for clinical victim support
services for victims of sexual violence and abuse.

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) supports S.C.R. 171 S.D. 1.

Clinical victim support services are a mental health outpatient service delivered by licensed providers with whom victims of sexual violence have an established therapeutic relationship. They can include coordinating with other providers, working with schools, employers, and others on reasonable accommodations for the victim's mental health conditions, and assisting a victim to access programs and services. These services are a best practice and medically necessary for some victims to recover and heal.

Unfortunately, health insurers have historically declined to cover clinical victim support services, preventing victims from accessing services and reducing their options for treatment.

Although we acknowledge and appreciate the recent decision of Hawai'i's largest insurer to voluntarily cover clinical victim support services and the steps taken by Hawai'i's second largest insurer in that direction, SATC supports ensuring consistent coverage of clinical victim support services across all health insurance plans in the State of Hawai'i.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 171 S.D. 1.