

**OPPORTUNITY  
YOUTH  
ACTION HUI**

27 January 2022

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Time: 09:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 1347, Relating to Sex Trafficking Prevention

Aloha mai e Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 1347, relating to sex trafficking prevention. This measure would require the department of education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

This bill would contribute to the education of teachers and health specialists – adults who play large roles in students’ lives – on the issue of sex trafficking and methods of prevention and response. The “Sex Trafficking in Hawai’i Executive Summary” 2020 study reports that **64% of surveyed sex trafficking victims identified as being all or part Native Hawaiian**. We believe this measure is a pivotal step to the effort to mitigate sex trafficking and abuse within not only the Native Hawaiian community, but the community of Hawai’i altogether.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individual committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB 1347.**