



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony presented before the
House Committees on Human Services and on Labor & Public Employment
Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 9:30am, Room 329

By
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And
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HCR 211 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES PUBLIC POLICY CENTER AND SPARK M. MATSUNAGA INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE AGENCIES AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THAT COORDINATES STATEWIDE POLICIES AND SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HAWAII.

Chairs Mizuno and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Jordan and Yamashita and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution. Susan Chandler, director of the College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center (PPC) and Carole Petersen, director of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (MIPCR), share the concern relating to the problem of human trafficking; however, the staffing required to address the issues fully and effectively will require support beyond the current capability of their units.

While both PPC and MIPCR are skilled in conducting policy-based research and in organizing and facilitating policy dialogs on matters of community interest, they currently do not have the staff to conduct the complex and extensive work to address the issues presented. The PPC would bring its expertise, commitment, and strong and continuing desire to enhance the quality of community life through teaching, research, and civic engagement and the MIPCR would bring its leadership in international affairs and advancing stable, peaceful prosperous and democratic relations.

However, if the legislature wishes to name the participants of a working group, the PPC and MIPCR would be willing to facilitate a few meetings of such a group. In addition, Carole Petersen has agreed to explore options and models of best practices for providing services to minors who are victims of human trafficking in the United States and share that information with the working group. Dr. Chandler also agreed to assist the working group develop a list of currently available resources in Hawai'i and help design strategies to make this resource

information easily available to the public, including schools, the police and other community organizations.

Additional resources however would be required to develop the comprehensive recommendations for changes in practices and procedures and/or legislation to better protect minors who are victims or at-risk of becoming victims of human trafficking in the region.

Based on the foregoing, the PPC and MIPCR would support the resolution only if it is amended as suggested or if they are provided with the necessary and adequate resources to conduct the complex work requested in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.