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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support and endorse the research conducted by Dr. Marshall Burns on *Consenting Juveniles*.

Since 1981, I have been a professor of psychology at the University of Hawaii, where I have also served as chair of the Psychology Department. I am a former president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, which awarded me its Alfred C. Kinsey Award in 1998. In 2012, I received the highest award of the Association for Psychological Science for lifetime achievement. I have been ranked in citation reviews as the most frequently quoted social psychologist in the world. I am best known for pioneering the scientific study of passionate love and sexual desire. Thus I have a fairly good grasp of the place that Burns' work occupies in the research literature.

This is important research that makes a greatly needed contribution to the literature. Burns' interviews help in understanding the complexity of children's lives. The comments of the "Consenting Juveniles" are touching and show how confused kids can be in a world that pretends they have no interest in sex. It is tragic to read how some children end up feeling abused, not by their intimate partners, but by parents, police, and the courts.

This work will surely upset some people. They might think the research is insensitive to the plight of abused children. But Burns has gone out his way to incorporate the reality of abuse among the accounts of cases that are decidedly not abuse—especially those between late teenagers and young adults. Some people may also claim that Burns isn't qualified to conduct interviews because he's not a sexologist or psychologist. Neither was Kinsey. And few sexologists or psychologists with an academic appointment today would be willing to risk their careers to conduct such research. It takes a brave man to do so.

I urge other professional in the field to pay close attention to this work and to think about how their work could build on what we learn from it.

With warmest aloha,

Prof. Elaine Hatfield