



LATE TESTIMONY

the formerly battered women's caucus of hawai'i

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Human Services & Housing Committee Members

Date: January 24, 2008

Re: SRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2037

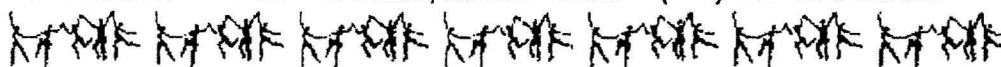
I stand in firm support of HB2037 that will establish procedures and requirements for Child Custody Evaluators. Appropriate training for the professionals who occupy these positions should have been implemented a long time ago so this legislation is long overdue and will benefit everyone; I cannot foresee any negative consequences as a result of this bill being passed.

Just as important as being appropriately trained is the component of this bill that addresses the character and legal standing of the Child Custody Evaluator. We've seen and heard one too many stories of child-related professionals being convicted of crimes against children and a person who serves as a Child Custody Evaluator should have nothing less then a spotless record when it comes to any type of crime against another human being. Setting such a bar would hopefully deter questionable professionals from pursuing such an important function and should keep Child Custody Evaluators behaving appropriately in all areas of their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dara Carlin, M.A.

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Oahu VOICES Representative



To: Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Tom Marzec

Subj: Testimony **IN STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB2037** which establishes the procedures and requirements for child custody evaluator training and certification.

Hearing: Thursday, January 24, 2008; 8:30 a.m.; Room 329, State Capitol

I strongly support HB2037. As a member of the SR10 Working Group that developed this bill, the need for such legislation was identified, professionals were brought together to collaborate on solutions to the issues, and this bill was tailored to fit with an already existing Family Court memo dealing with this very subject.

The Working Group started with the Family Court Custody Evaluator Standards and Procedures memo, issued June 1, 2007, and also examined California related rules and legislative language. This bill balances statutory requirements with giving discretion to the Board of Family Court judges, and family court, in developing custody evaluator standards and procedures. The language and intent is consistent with, and builds upon, the family court Custody Evaluator memo, which is already in place.

These standards, procedures, training and certification requirements are needed to ensure we consistently and effectively perform custody evaluations. A lack of standards leads to unpredictable and disparate results, which negatively affect children and parents. This bill has requirements for training and certification which can bring together the various professionals who perform custody evaluations, resulting in cross-training (psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists training together) and a wider knowledge base and level of understanding for custody evaluators. The certification requirements will ensure that we have qualified custody evaluators who have met the minimum licensing, training and experience requirements. This will help ensure that our courts address children, in contested custody cases, with consistently high standards.

For these reasons, I urge that you pass this important bill. Your consideration is very appreciated.

Date: Thu, 24 Jan 2008 07:16:53 -1000
To: HSHtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov, testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
From: Tom Marzec <tom.marzec@1987.usna.com>
Subject: HB2037, Strong Support, HSH, Thursday, 01-24-08 at 8:30 am in
House conference room 329
Cc: tom.marzec@1987.usna.com

To: Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

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