



the formerly battered women's caucus of hawai'i

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services & Housing

Representative Green, Chair
Representative Mizuno, Vice Chair
Members of the Committees on Health

Date: January 29, 2008

Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR **HB2128**, Relating To The Penal Code

VOICES strongly supports HB2128 as its passage would hopefully prove to be a stern warning and potent barrier to batterers who may not seriously respect the terms and conditions of protective orders.

It is of particular importance to have such conduct committed against victims who the courts and police are trying to protect linked to penal code offenses because against the backdrop of a historically abusive relationship, batterers will not see their conduct as criminal because it's gone on for years without consequence from third parties in many cases. Temporary Restraining Orders and Protection Orders are as aberrant to the batterer as the victim breaking her silence and must be seen as more then her "drawing a line in the sand daring to be crossed".

The most successful domestic violence prevention initiatives have the elements of immediacy, accountability and a zero-tolerance for even minor infractions; the passage of HB2128 would be a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time, consideration and this opportunity to testify.

Dara Carlin, M.A.

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Oahu VOICES Representative

