

# HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Hearing date and time: February 25, 2008, 11:15am, Committee on Finance

RE: H.B. 2766 HD1, RELATING TO ELECTRONIC MONITORING

TO: Chair Representative Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Representative Marilyn Lee and committee members

FROM: Ana Maring, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Aloha, my name is Ana Maring and I represent the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV). HSCADV is a private non-profit agency which serves as a touchstone agency for the majority of domestic violence programs throughout the state. For many years HSCADV has worked with the Hawaii Legislature by serving as an educational resource and representing the many voices of domestic violence programs and survivors of domestic violence.

## **HSCADV strongly supports HB2766 HD1.**

Research shows that victims intimate partner violence (IPV) often continue to be in danger from their batterer and are in fact likely to be at increased risk once they separate. Statistics show that approximately 75% of the women murdered by a partner or former partner had separated from their batterer or told their batterer they planned to leave. Many victims of IPV seek Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO)/Protective Orders (PO) as a tool to increase their safety.

Electronic monitoring for TRO/PO violators serves as an additional tool that would assist in protecting victims and their children's safety by alerting the victim if the batterer has crossed into an exclusionary zone. As stated in *Electronic Monitoring of Domestic Violence Cases-A Study of Two Bilateral Programs*, "The intimate nature of these relationships means that the offender will be well versed in the victim's routines, and personal and social affiliations, such as family, friends, and membership in organizations. He knows when and where she works, the school where she waits to pick up the children, her telephone numbers, as well as her travel routes to reach home, work, or fulfill other responsibilities, needs or preferences. Such knowledge of her routines furnishes the abuser with numerous opportunities to harass, stalk, intimidate, assault or abuse the victim in violation of protective orders."

According to the Honolulu Probation Office, the estimated cost of this service is approximately \$4 - \$5 dollars a day and would be paid by the offender. The cost of the program is negligible for indigent offenders as they are covered by the fines paid into the system by offenders with resources.

Whether a victim is seeking a temporary restraining order, contacts law enforcement or seeks domestic violence services, they are best equipped to predict how their batterer will respond to different punitive measures. Courts must work with victims considering the use of this technology and explain the limitations of the system. While there is not a single answer to domestic violence GPS electronic monitoring provides another tool to hold batterers accountable and deter future abuse.

For more information about how GPS Electronic Monitoring equipment works please go to <http://www.denvergov.org/ElectronicMonitoring/EquipmentandPrograms/tabid/385950/Default.aspx> .  
and  
[http://www.officer.com/print/Law-Enforcement-Technology/GPS-Offender-Tracking-and-the-Police-Officer/1\\$25189](http://www.officer.com/print/Law-Enforcement-Technology/GPS-Offender-Tracking-and-the-Police-Officer/1$25189)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.