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Peter K. Kamakawiwoole, Sr.
Parent of five children
Vice President, Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii

To the distinguished members on the Committee on Health,

For Wednesday, February 20, 2008's 10:00 a.m. hearing on H.R.41 and H.C.R.41:

I would like to speak in favor of the resolution encouraging the Legislature to recognize and support “the traditional and constitutionally protected right of parents to make decisions relating to the care, custody, and control of their children.”

Suppose, one day, parents will not be allowed to tell their children...

- Who they can and can't associate with?
- Where they can and can't go on the internet?
- What movies and shows to watch or music to listen to?
- How to think and behave?

Suppose, one day, parents will not be allowed to raise their children with their values but instead will be hindered and governed by the State?

That day is coming.

My name is Peter Kamakawiwoole, Sr. and I am a concerned husband, father of five, Vice President of Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii, and the Senior Pastor of Kalihi Union Church. I am committed to raising and nurturing a healthy family and encouraging others to do the same.

THE ISSUE

Our role, as parents, is critical to the health and development of our children. Researchers and scientists have found that children who have parental support are likely to have better health as adults, tend to earn higher grades, have better social skills, and are more likely to graduate and go on to post-secondary education. Teens with involved parents are one-quarter as likely as teens with "hands-off" parents to smoke, drink, and use drugs.

My son, Peter K. Kamakawiwoole, Jr. (a senior at Patrick Henry College), wrote: “At every stage of life, there is no greater resource and refuge for a child than the love of a parent. Time and time again, studies have found and affirmed that the nurture and love of parents plays a crucial role in positively shaping the future of their children. But a storm is on the horizon, which threatens the vital role of parents in the lives of their children. The Supreme Court, once a defender of freedom for parents, has been slowly shifting toward a pro-government/anti-parent bias which is becoming more and more apparent every day in the law and in the news.”¹

¹ Na Makua Hoolako: A Publication of Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii. V.22, Issue 6 (November 2007), p.3.

1 For years, the Supreme Court has recognized that parents have a fundamental right to
2 raise their children as they see fit, but that support is being steadily undermined.
3

4 **THE BENEFIT OF THE RESOLUTION**

5 This resolution helps us to move in a positive direction, encouraging parents in their role
6 as mentors and equippers... their role as parents. From a community standpoint, it helps
7 teachers, administrators, coaches, and other "leaders" in various growth opportunities to
8 enlist our valuable resources found in parents. From a legislative standpoint, you make a
9 statement calling parents to embrace their responsibility and be a major part of the
10 solution in bringing up the next generation, including future resolutions and laws that
11 help protect the rights of parents to raise their children in ways that will bless the society.
12

13 **SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE RESOLUTION**

14 First, though I understand its intent and I am not in favor of child abuse and/or child
15 neglect, I do not support the resolution as it is currently written where it "recognizes that
16 governmental interference with parental rights is permissible only to prevent injury or
17 potential injury to a child." There are cases where governmental interference has over
18 stepped the rights of parents in an attempt to "prevent injury or potential injury to a child"
19 based on anonymous, unsubstantiated reports and due process. May I make an appeal
20 that I would support a resolution that read: "...recognizes that governmental interference
21 with parental rights is permissible only to prevent injury or potential injury to a child *if*
22 *there is probable cause and actions taken against parents are carried out according to*
23 *our laws.*" (Change/addition to H.R.41 & H.C.R.41) May I also make an appeal to
24 suggest that you include the following within the body of the resolution: "**WHEREAS,**
25 **we believe that children can and should be protected from abuse or neglect by the**
26 **continued enforcement of these time-honored constitutional principles governing the**
27 **parent-child relationship.**" (Taken from Petition for Constitutional Recognition of
28 Parental Rights at www.ParentalRights.org.) This statement can address your stance on
29 child abuse and/or neglect.
30

31 Second, I believe this resolution is a step in the right direction and I want to thank the
32 authors and framers for their affirmation of parenthood. However, the United Nation's
33 Convention on the Rights of the Child has already been used by our judges and our
34 government to limit and in some cases usurp parental authority here in the United States
35 of America, even though we have not ratified this treaty as a nation. Such a ratification
36 will nullify this (and other similar) resolutions and laws that affirm parental rights in
37 raising their children. May I make an appeal that you take further steps in strengthening
38 parental rights by initiating and supporting a movement towards a U.S. Constitutional
39 Amendment to make parental rights a protected and stated, rather than an implied, right,
40 which will guard against the rule of treaties and laws, especially those originating and
41 directing from other countries.
42

43 I want to thank you for this opportunity and applaud your effort. Thank you for serving
44 our state.

mizuno1-Edgar

From: Pmgrandelli@cs.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 11:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Please Support HR41 and HCR4. 20 Feb 2008, 10a.m.

Testimony submitted by: Patrick Grandelli, Parent
To: Hawaii House Health Committee
20 February, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Re: HCR41 and HR41

HR41 and HCR41 are simple resolutions that restate what most Americans consider to be an obvious truth: Parents and guardians have a fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children, except for child abusers.

These resolutions are needed because the the above position and related case law was weakened by last year's Bill HR48, which commended the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UN Convention, if ever approved by the US, would trump federal and state law and allow judges to intervene whenever there is any type of "conflict" within a family. This judicial standard is overly intrusive. Government *should* be able to intervene to protect children within abusive families, but government should *not* be empowered to act as the parent whenever a child chafes under parental governance.

Our nation's laws and culture clearly demonstrate that parents are held responsible for their minor children's actions. HR41 would affirm this appropriate division of responsibility - that in general, parents are inherently better suited to train and raise their children than is a Family Court judge or other government employee.

Here's why you should support the resolutions: When our State and Federal Constitutions were drafted, it was so self-evident that parents should direct their children that the concept was not explicitly written. But recent international laws and local bills such as HR48 highlight the pressing need to explicitly state where these healthy and fundamental responsibilities should lie. Please support HR41 and HCR41.

Thank you for your service. Aloha,

Patrick Grandelli
240-A Kihapai St.
Kailua, HI 96734

mizuno1-Edgar

From: Todd Shattuck [toddsuz91@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 10:10 PM

To: HLTtestimony

Subject: HCR41 & HR41

LATE TESTIMONY

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a concerned citizen and wanted to express my support of Representative John Mizuno's resolutions HCR41 and HR41 that recognizes the fundamental rights of parents to oversee their children's education as

well as their upbringing.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Shattuck

Honolulu, Hawaii