

# **HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

TO: Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing; March 27, 2008 at 10:45a.m.

RE: HCR 93 AND HR 75 ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN THE BLACK RIBBON AND BLACK ARM BAND CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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 supports HCR 93 and HR 75 with amendments.

Sadly Hawaii has already seen the deaths of two women, allegedly at the hands of a partner or former partner. Jenny Hartsock and Janel Tupaola's lives were snuffed out in a brutal and violent manner. Their deaths have left a gaping hole in their families and communities. Between these two women- eight children will continue to grow up without their mothers, without a true sense of justice or safety in this world. On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day.

Nationally domestic violence programs, concerned citizens, families and friends of victims have worn purple ribbons to remember and honor their loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted. Many say the purple ribbon symbolizes the bruises women endure from their partners.

Domestic violence programs have used purple ribbon campaigns to raise awareness about the crime of domestic violence in their communities. The purple ribbon also has been recognized by State Legislatures in proclamations commemorating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Purple ribbons are made into pins and passed out at local events...they're embroidered on the t-shirts, hats and bags of those passionate about ending the violence...they're tied to the antennae of police cars...they're hung on doors, wrapped around trees, draped over fences at scene and worn by men and women alike.

We request that you pass both of these resolutions with amendments to change the color black to purple.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [mailto:breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 12:04 PM

To: HSHtestimony

Subject: HCR93 to be heard on 03/27 at 10:45am by the HSH Committee in Room 329

> TO: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
> Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
> HSH Committee Members

Representative Josh Green, Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Health Committee Members

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> FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.  
> Oahu VOICES  
> 716 Umi Street, Unit 210  
> Honolulu, HI 96819  
> (808) 832-9316 X16  
>

> DATE: Thursday - March 27, 2008

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> RE: Participation in the Campaign Against Domestic Violence

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> Statewide VOICES applauds this initiative and is heartened by its intent, however, we do have one small adjustment we'd like to humbly request... The color that represents our cause is the color PURPLE, so instead of a black ribbon and black arm band campaign, could we ask that the color be changed to purple?

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> Black is traditionally the color associated with mourning and while we do mourn those who lost their lives to domestic violence and those who are still trapped by it, we are hoping for a better day where domestic violence is eliminated and viewed as historical barbarism. We don't want people to feel sad for or pity us, we want people to learn from the mistakes we've made and be inspired to look out for one another so that not one more life is lost or ruined because of domestic violence. When Hawaii can go through an entire year without a single death, we'd like to celebrate under a banner of purple rather than a shroud of black; I hope this is not being offensive, rude or disrespectful in any way and sincerely thank you for this show of support. Saying that Hawaii passed this initiative will hopefully lead the rest of the country to follow suit.

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> Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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> Respectfully,

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> Dara Carlin, M.A.  
> Oahu VOICES Representative

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