
From: Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq. [mailto:jadamsesq@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 7:54 PM

To: HSHtestimony

Subject: Testimony in Support of HR 16

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 6, 2008

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

I write in support of HR 16, the House Resolution requesting the United States Congress to ratify The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 is the most complete international agreement that focuses specifically on basic human rights for women. The Convention requires ratifying nations to improve the status of women and to work towards eliminating discrimination and violence against women. The Convention has resulted in reforms for women around the world, including measures against sex slavery, domestic violence, and trafficking of women; increasing primary education previously denied to females; and improved health care that have saved lives during pregnancy and childbirth.

It is most fitting and timely that Hawaii speak out in favor of this convention by adopting this Resolution. In 1972 Hawaii was the first state to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment. Hawaii is one of the few states to have an equal rights amendment in its State Constitution. Hawaii is also the home state of former Representative Patsy Mink, legendary for her efforts to eliminate discrimination against women. Hawaii's current governor, Linda Lingle, was elected in a contest against Mazie Hirono virtually assuring that Hawaii would have its first woman Governor. Hawaii has its first woman Senate President, Senator Colleen Hanabusa. Hawaii is the birthplace and native home of Senator Barack Obama, who is predicating his campaign on themes of inclusion. Hawaii's Senior Senator, Senator Dan Inouye, and State Senator Colleen Hanabusa are leading the Hawaii campaign for Senator Hillary Clinton, who may be our first woman President, and is currently one of the two contenders remaining for the Democratic nomination for President.

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