

JUD Hearing
Date April 1, 2008 2:00pm
Conference Room 325

To: Representative Tommy Waters
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Blake K. Oshiro
Vice-Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

From: Michelle Carriaga
Constituent

Subject: **Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1337 – RELATING TO CONTEMPT OF COURT**

Good afternoon Chairman Waters and members of the committee. My name is Michelle Carriaga. I am an individual who will highly affected by Senate Bill 1337 and I strongly support this bill.

The father of my two eldest children has failed to make any effort to ensure that his court ordered child support payments are made on time. In fact, of the past 12 years there are only 10 months on record in which payments were made via an Order for Incoming Withholding by an employer or garnishment of Unemployment benefits and 1 payment that he made on his own. From my understanding, there are a number of employers that CSEA has on record as potential employers. But by the time the order reaches them he has quit or been fired.

In 2004 this individual admitted in a child support hearing that he quit his job which paid him \$13.50 an hour because he could not afford to pay his child support. He is claiming that he is unable to get a job because he has to care for his step son who has hemophilia. Even though the natural mother to this boy has quit her job to stay home and take care of their newborn child.

My ex-boyfriend is listed as the agent and president of a corporation registered with the State of Hawaii. This leads me to believe that he is working. And I have made numerous unsuccessful attempts to get evidence that I could use in a court setting. It only yielded information that I believe CSEA already had on file and nothing on his current working situation.

My husband and I work hard to provide for all of our children. This would include my two from my ex, my step-son, which my husband paid child support up until last year and our youngest. I have two part time jobs and at one point I worked 3 jobs to help support my family. My husband, whenever available, will take on

assignments that would have him working 12 – 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, if that means earning extra money.

I realize I may be one of the lucky ones. Yes, I am fortunate I am not a single parent, but I am here because of them. I can only imagine how hard it must be for the single parents who work more than one job, need the welfare system to help support their children and may be homeless because of the lack of support from the absent parent.

I ask that the Committee consider in favor of Senate Bill 1337. It is time we take a stand against deadbeat parents. They need to be held responsible for the actions they take. Both parents should share the responsibilities of their children, whether or not the child is living with them.

I thank you for your time and consideration.