

LATE TESTIMONY

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

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [mailto:breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 11:45 PM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: SB2218 SD1 to be heard Tuesday, 03/11/08 at 8:30am by the HSH
Committee
Importance: High

> TO: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
> Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
> Health & Human Services Committee Members
>
> FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
> Oahu VOICES
> 716 Umi Street, Suite 210
> Honolulu, HI 96819
>
> DATE: March 11, 2008
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> RE: Strong Support for SB2218 SD1, Relating To Electronic Monitoring
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The Formerly Battered Womens Caucus, VOICES, stands in strong support of SB2218 SD1 and hopes that you will do the same. While this remedy to domestic violence is already offered in existing statute, it is necessary that this option be more specifically operationalized (as this measure offers) in order for it to be effectively utilized.

While price and cost to initiate and maintain electronic monitoring may be raised as a point to consider, I'd like to propose considering the price and cost of a victim or survivor's life. For Janel Tupuola, our last domestic violence murder, this device could have saved her life as her perpetrator's monitor would have alerted the police when he came into the vicinity of her children's sitter's house. What is the price and value of a mother of five? Is it worth five dollar a day? I think Janel's kids would tell you all that it is.

In a previous hearing on this bill, identification of the perpetrator was raised as a concern because the electronic monitoring device would let everyone know that its wearer is a domestic violence perpetrator; I guess there was some concern for the potential stigma and shame for the wearer. Besides comparing the perpetrator's stigma and shame to the victim's safety and protection of life, I'd like you to think about how meaningfully appropriate such stigma and shame would be for the perpetrator.

Every day, victims of domestic violence have to face friends, family and colleagues with visible signs of domestic violence: split lips, missing teeth, blackened eyes red from crying, bruises in the form of fingerprints on her arms or a bruised line around her neck from where she was choked - how stigmatizing and shameful do you think that is? How embarrassing do you think it was for Jenny Hartsock (the first domestic violence murder victim this year) to explain the scar on her leg when her coworker asked about it?

One of the biggest paradoxes in domestic violence is that the victims and survivors hang their heads in shame, stigmatized by the signs of violence they endured, while the perpetrators walk around and away with their heads held high. Electronic monitoring will help to set that right by providing the added benefit of appropriately stigmatizing and shaming the perpetrators for the crimes they're found guilty of, but please remember that electronic monitoring is about saving and protecting a victim or survivor's life, not saving and protecting a perpetrator's "good reputation".

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> Thank you for your time and consideration.
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> Respectfully,
>
> Dara Carlin, M.A.
> Oahu VOICES Representative
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Climb to the top of the charts! Play the word scramble challenge with star power.

http://club.live.com/star_shuffle.aspx?icid=starshuffle_wlmailtextlink_jan