

# HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

TO: Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing; February 26, 2008 at 1:15p.m.

RE: SCR 24 REGARDING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE WEEK

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 SCR 24 with amendments.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) does not begin at 18 or 20 years old. Many adult victims state they have been involved with their batterer since they were teenagers. The violence that traps adult victims in dangerous relationships also traps our youth.

It is important that we as a community recognize the scope of the problem and ways that we can address the issues. Hawai'i has the opportunity to raise awareness through a variety of campaigns for youth and their parents.

We request that the dates in this resolution be changed to coincide with National Teen Dating Violence Week during the first week of February.

Research shows:

- 62% of tweens (age 11-14) who have been in a relationship say they know friends who have been verbally abused (called stupid, worthless, ugly, etc) by a boyfriend/girlfriend. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008.)
- 1 in 3 teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their partner. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)
- 13% of teenage girls who said they have been in a relationship report being physically hurt or hit. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)
- 1 in 4 teenage girls who have been in relationships reveal they have been pressured to perform oral sex or engage in intercourse. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)
- Twenty-four percent of 14 to 17-year-olds know at least one student who has been the victim of dating violence, yet 81% of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it is an issue. (Survey commissioned by the Empower Program, sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc. and conducted by Knowledge Networks, Social Control, Verbal Abuse, and Violence Among Teenagers, December 2000)
- Less than 25% of teens say they have discussed dating violence with their parents. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study of teens 13-17 conducted by Applied Research and Consulting LLC, Spring 2000)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**testimony**

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**From:** Judith Clark [jclark@hysn.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2008 12:47 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony SCR 24  
**Attachments:** scr24 datingviolence.doc

SCR 24 Designating May 5 through May 9, 2008 as Hawaii Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week

Committee: Human Services and Public Housing

Chair: Senator Chun Oakland

Date/time: Feb. 26; 1:15 p.m.

Room 016

Deliver 1 copy to committee clerk in room 226.

Testimony in attached file; also pasted below in case of problems with attachment. Mahalo.

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February 22, 2008

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

**Testimony in Support of SCR 24 Designating May 5 through May 9 as Hawaii Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of more than fifty youth serving organizations, supports SCR 24 Designating May 5 through May 9 as Hawaii Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

According to the Domestic Violence Action Center, one in five teens experience some form of abuse in their dating relationships and half know someone who has been abused. This abuse may be physical (e.g., hitting), emotional (e.g., threats of suicide), verbal (e.g., telling a person that he/she is worthless) or involve property damage.

Since 2004, Hawaii Youth Services Network has provided professional training and developed curriculum materials on teen dating violence. In 2008, we have conducted two workshops on teen dating violence and will hold two more on Maui and Molokai in March. We have found that teens, parents, and health and human service professionals often underestimate the amount of intimate partner abuse that occurs among teens and need information and advice on how to work with youth who have experienced dating violence.

Designating May 5-9 as teen dating violence awareness and prevention week will provide opportunities to educate the public and professionals about this important issue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Joseph Fichter, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser  
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha Pride Center

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)

Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

World Healing Institute

YWCA of Kauai

February 22, 2008

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