



# 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 63 AND SR 36 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 SCR 63 and SR 36 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.