

brower2-Jenna

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:20 PM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: HCR32 to be heard Wednesday, February 18th at 8:15am in Room 329 by the Committee on Human Services

Importance: High

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
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DATE: February 18, 2009

RE: Support for HCR32

Please support HCR32 that asks to establish a White Ribbon campaign to call an end to men's violence against women.

As a survivor of domestic violence, I am raising my son to respect women by living as a woman my son will respect, but that's only 1/2 of the equation. In order for him to really "get" the message that violence against women is wrong - particularly against someone he'd love or who becomes the mother of his children - he needs more than just my voice of encouragement; he needs men and male role models to look up to and emulate but when you survey the landscape of today's male role models, you don't find many (if any) who are willing to take a stand against men's use of violence against women.

Just recently pop music icon, Chris Brown, was discovered to have beaten his girlfriend, another pop music icon, Rhianna. Within days the focus of this incident became not about how to help her or prevent this from happening to other women, but why he did what he did to her: growing up in a home where he witnessed the use of violence against his own mom by his step-father.

Our boys and young men need male role models to look up to like the Jonas Brothers, who endured harsh scrutiny and mockery for openly wearing Promise Rings (rings that proclaim chastity until marriage) - but who in Hawaii will serve as non-violent role models for our young men? Imagine what it would be like for our boys and young men to see our men and elders wearing White Ribbons that signified their commitment to ending violence against women. What kind of an impact would that make? What kind of an impact **could** that make? We'll never know without your support on this measure.