

hscadv **HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

TO: Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Brower and members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Carol Lee, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: February 19, 2008 at 8:15 a.m.

RE: HR 31 AND HCR 37 REQUESTING RELIGIOUS AND FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO SERVE AS SAFE HAVENS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Aloha, my name is Carol Lee 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 the intent of HR 31 and HCR 37.

Violence against women is epidemic in our society. On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. Victims of domestic violence frequently turn to their faith leaders to for counsel and support. Unfortunately many of religious organizations have not received training on the complex issues of domestic violence and have unknowingly put many women in harm's way.

To ensure the best possible outcome for families HSCADV is continuing to reach out and work with the faith based community. With the appropriate training victims will receive the safest counsel for themselves and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

brower2-Jenna

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:10 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: HR31 to be heard Wednesday, February 18th at 8:15am in Room 329 by the Committee on Human Services

Importance: High

Categories: Red Category

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

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
881 Akiu Place
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 218-3457

DATE: February 18, 2009

RE: Support for HR31

Please support HR31 that requests religious and faith-based organizations to serve as Safe Havens for victims of domestic violence.

For a moment, please think about what circumstances would drive you yourself to seek shelter and protection from a religious entity. It'd probably be under pretty dire circumstances, right? If you were a victim of domestic violence, where would you turn for sanctuary? Suppose your home is a living hell and the most likely place that you'd be harmed? Suppose going to a friend or family member's home would endanger the ones you love? Suppose the shelter is at capacity and has absolutely no room to accommodate you and your children? Suppose you don't have a penny to your name to provide food for you and your children, let alone money to find a place to run and hide to escape someone's wrath?

May-be not so surprisingly, when batterer intervention groups were conducted in church or religious-based facilities, participants reported feeling more contrite about what they had done as compared to batterer intervention groups that were conducted in non-religious settings. Religious and faith-based organizations would provide another level of deterrence to an abuser intent on "getting" his victim. Please bear in mind that this would be at the institution's consent - that this would not be a mandatory imposition to all religious and faith-based organizations. When it comes to escaping a domestic violence situation, more avenues for sanctuary are desperately needed because when the time comes, you'd be surprised at how many doors will close in your face.

Thank you for your time and consideration.