

# Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center

*(Formerly known as Na Loio)*

## TESTIMONY ON HR 37/HCR46: URGING CONGRESS TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN PROGRAMS, LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES THAT ASSIST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Resolution scheduled to be heard by HUS on Thursday, 02/19/09 8:15 A M in conference room 329**

The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center ("HIJC"), formerly known as Na Loio, provides statewide free legal services, case management, community education, and advocacy in the public interest for indigent immigrants, refugees, and other vulnerable persons. Among those persons, we represent special immigrant juveniles (minors who have been abandoned, neglected or abused), victims of human trafficking, victims of crimes, and others in their attempt to obtain legal status in the United States. In the past year, HIJC helped over 1400 individuals in immigrant-related matters.

The Justice Center supports both the House Resolution 37 and House Concurrent Resolution 46. Both measures resolve to urge Congress to protect and maintain programs, laws, regulations, and policies that continue funding and to assist victims of domestic violence; and enable providers of services to meet expenses necessary to continue to operate their programs.

The challenge presented with any decline in government funding would be to maintain our level of current assistance with fewer staff and potential layoffs while the critical needs of low income people are higher than ever. These services are crucial to prevent family violence, help individuals remain with their families, prevent victims from remaining in their homes to avoid deportation and help them and their children escape from abusive situations, among others.

Please pass HR 37 and HCR 46.

Sincerely,

Robin H. Kobayashi  
Chief Executive Officer

# 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 37 AND HCR 46 URGING CONGRESS TO PROTECT FUNDING AND MAINTAIN PROGRAMS, LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES THAT ASSIST 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 HR 37 and HCR 46.

Both locally and nationally many strides have been made to address the issue of domestic violence. Funding and laws have been implemented provide much needed assistance for victims. While it would be easy to sit back and say we have done what we can – we are still far from the goal of ending violence against women and children. We urge Congress to continue funding domestic violence programs and to protect the laws that have been created for their safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## **brower2-Jenna**

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**From:** Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:16 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Subject:** HB37 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 <sup>HR</sup>HB37

Please support <sup>HR</sup>HB37 urging congress to protect funding that would assist victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence survivors and their children cannot survive without their community's and country's support so please take a chance on their chance to live violence-free and abuse-free lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most respectfully,

**Dara Carlin, M.A.**

Independent Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

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