

LATE

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 121 AND HR 98

House Committee on Health

April 3, 2009, 10:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature House, Conference Room 329

Measure Title:

URGING ALL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION ON DEMAND TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RAPE.

To:

House Committee on Health

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair and Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Health Committee Members

From:

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Filipinos for Affirmative Action

My name is Amy Agbayani. As Co-Chair of Filipinos For Affirmative Action, I submit strong support for these resolutions. The mission of Filipinos For Affirmative Action is to advocate for civil rights for all.

We support this bill, in order to ensure that women who seek medical emergency services for sexual assault are offered basic standard care, as set by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists. A national study estimated that 32,000 rape-related pregnancies occur among sexual assault victims yearly. Given this, we have grave concerns about the 'religious exemption' language, because it must be considered that there is no basis in law for such an exemption. Requiring emergency rooms to provide sexual assault victims with the basic standard of emergency medical care, which includes emergency contraceptives, does not impede on any constitutional right to freedom of religion. We believe that all sexual assault victims deserve the best care, regardless of what emergency room to which they report, and despite the religious beliefs, if any, of health care providers. Therefore, a religious exemption should not deter from a woman's access to emergency medical care, when suffering from sexual assault.

Thank you for hearing these important resolutions, and for discerning the merit and necessity of maintaining standard practices of emergency medical services. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D.

Filipinos For Affirmative Action

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

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To:

House Committee on Health

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair and Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Health Committee Members

From:

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support these resolutions. As a former legislator, father, grandfather, and church-going community member, I believe that all emergency rooms should abide by medical standard procedures, which makes emergency contraceptive treatment options available for all women who are victims of heinous crimes of sexual assault. Separation of Church and State is paramount to protect women's health and right to quality care, which includes the right to determine whether emergency contraceptives is right for them, without suffering further trauma from being denied proper medical attention due to religious beliefs of others.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Your support is very much appreciated.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg
President, Filipino American Citizens League



LATE Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701
E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com

Beatrice Ramos-Razon,
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To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Health Committee Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc. (NAMI)
Executive Director, Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the Founder and President of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), we are in strong support of this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people by addressing not only a statewide, but worldwide nursing shortage, through the training and mentoring of foreign graduate nurses, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds, to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

As professional nurses, we uphold the standards of care set for the treatment of sexual assault victims, who may seek emergency contraceptives at emergency rooms. We respectfully request that our legislators address the growing national and state trends of women who suffer from sexual assault. Please enact these resolutions and protect women from religious-based health care policies that may impede equal access to emergency medical treatment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our written testimony.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.
Executive Director, Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii



Hawaii Medical Center East
2230 Liliha Street, P.O. Box 30100, Honolulu, HI 96820-0100
Phone: (808) 547-6011

LATE

April 3, 2009

EMAIL TO: hlttestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov.

TO: The Committee on Health
HEARING DATE: Friday, April 3, 2009
HEARING TIME: 10:30 am
HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

FROM: Collin Dang, MD
President and CEO, Hawaii Medical Center, LLC

MEASURE NUMBER: HCR 121
Urging all hospital emergency rooms in this State to provide emergency contraception on demand to victims of sexual assault or rape.

NO. OF COPIES: 3

I am the President and CEO of Hawaii Medical Center, and have been a practicing cardiac surgeon in Honolulu for 32 years.

I am opposed to HCR 121 for the following reasons:

- 1) St. Francis Medical Center has served the health needs of the people of Hawaii for over 80 years while maintaining its Catholic tenets. The owners of Hawaii Medical Center believe that the Sisters of St. Francis had and have an honorable mission, and have purchased St. Francis Medical Center agreeing to continue that mission and maintaining the Catholic tenets. Mandating emergency contraception forces Hawaii Medical Center to violate its purchase agreements.
- 2) There is no proof that immediate treatment in any emergency room prevents pregnancy. Emergency contraception and support for rape victims is available at other hospitals in Honolulu. It is preferable that rape victims be transferred to institutions that have a complete support system to deal with such situations. Hawaii Medical Center would be willing to transfer patients who show up in its emergency rooms to hospitals with such a support system at Hawaii Medical Center's expense.

Collin R. Dang, M.D.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR 121 AND HR 98

House Committee on Health
April 3, 2009, 10:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature House, Conference Room 329

Measure Title: URGING ALL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION ON DEMAND TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RAPE.

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair & Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Health Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Private Citizen
728 Nunu St., Kailua, HI 96734

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As a public health educator and private citizen, I strongly support these resolutions. In 2007 the U.S. Dept. of Justice Bureau of Crime Statistics reported occurrences of 248,300 rapes in the United States. According to the most recent Crime in Hawaii report, there were 377 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement in Hawaii in 2007. While the overall crime rate was down, the rate of forced rapes increased by 3.9%. Many of these victims required emergency medical care at one of Hawaii's emergency rooms.

The American Medical Association's Guidelines for treating sexual assault victims states that victims should be informed about and provided emergency contraceptives. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology also supports this standard of care.

Given these standards, it is unconscionable to use religion as justification to turn away victims of sexual assault who may seek treatment and emergency contraceptives in an emergency room of a religiously-affiliated health facility.

I encourage you to please use your legislative powers to ensure that women who require emergency room treatment for sexual assault crimes receive standard medical care by all emergency room facilities and health care providers. Please take precaution to safeguard a patient's bill of rights that affords everyone equal access to health care services, without religious bias.

Thank you for the opportunity to support these resolutions in my written testimony.

Very Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
Private Citizen

LATE

April 3, 2009

TO: The Committee on Health
HEARING DATE: Friday, April 03, 2009
HEARING TIME: 10:30 am
HEARING PLACE: Conference Rm 329, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street
MEASURE NUMBER: HCR121 - RELATING TO EMERGENCY
CONTRACEPTIVES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT
SURVIVORS.

NO. OF COPIES: 3

The Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane
Chairman, Committee on Health
39th Representative District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Testimony Opposing HCR121, Relating to Health

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and Honorable
Members of the Committee of Health,

As Medical Director of the Emergency Department of Hawaii Medical Center East, I
oppose the Emergency Contraceptive Bill as currently stated and request that it allow for
an exception for facilities and providers based on religious beliefs.

I currently provide care for a limited number of patients who have experienced sexual
assault, and in my practice, the sexual abuse team at Kapiolani Medical Center for
Women and Children has provided assistance to every one. I am aware of the
recommendations to treat for sexually transmitted diseases as well as unplanned
pregnancy in these cases and have been appreciative of the assistance the sexual abuse
crisis team at Kapiolani provides.

I am not opposed to arranging for the appropriate care, but do not think physicians or
other providers should be mandated by law to provide services that they be morally
opposed to when other options are available. Other states have passed measures that
allow for the exclusion of facilities that have objections on moral grounds and I ask the
State of Hawaii make a similar exception.

Respectfully submitted

Valorie Ammann, MD, FACEP
Medical Director Emergency Department
Hawaii Medical Center East

LATE

MELANIE KELLY, MD

April 3, 2009

EMAIL TO: hlttestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

TO: The Committee on Health
HEARING DATE: Friday, April 03, 2009
HEARING TIME: 10:30 am
HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
MEASURE NUMBER: HCR121 – Urging all hospital emergency rooms in the State to provide emergency contraception on demand to victims of sexual assault or rape.

NO. OF COPIES:3

Re: In Opposition to HCR121 (Emergency Contraception)

Dear Rep. Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

I am a physician and Medical Director at the Hawaii Medical Center Emergency Departments. I have practiced Emergency Medicine in Hawaii for over twenty years, and have experience in managing a Family Planning clinic for 6 years.

I am personally and professionally in favor of emergency contraception, and its widespread availability. I also strongly believe that each physician and healthcare system must weigh its options and make informed decisions on whether they would choose to participate in providing contraception. They should be allowed to make choices and to have the freedom to practice according to their choices. This right should be protected by the first amendment.

Women have 72 hours to obtain and take emergency contraception. Emergency physicians can, and should provide education to these patients about their options, then pharmacies can provide the medication if this option is chosen.

The State also is taking the position that our system is not prepared to fund and implement a program requiring all Emergency Departments to be able to provide on-site Emergency contraceptives. It may be much simpler option to implement this program at a select few Emergency Departments who serve this population most frequently, or to provide the medication through pharmacies in coordination with Emergency Department prescriptions.

In summary, I oppose this bill because

- I believe health care providers and systems need to make and stand by their ethical choices on this matter
- The State is not prepared to fund or implement the ramifications of passing this bill
- Women could obtain the Emergency Contraceptive easily within the 72 hour time frame through pharmacies

Sincerely,
Melanie Kelly, MD

Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71
Makakilo, HI 96707
808 672-9050
Fax: 808 672-6347
Email: golojuhc@hawaii.rr.com

LATE

^{HCR}
RE: Support of ~~HB~~ 121

TO: Hawaii State House of Representatives

I strongly urge you to support ^{HCR}~~HB~~ 121 - urging all hospital emergency rooms in the state to **provide emergency contraception on demand to victims of sexual assault or rape.**

Only the women who have been raped can tell you the horror of the attack. In the vein of compassion for those who have been raped, please pass this very important bill.

This bill offers women a small token of justice after the most heinous crime on any person. Rape is the total degradation of the human spirit. Rape violates the body, soul and mind that few are able to recover from. If emergency contraception on demand for rape victims is denied, the woman will have the crime before her for the rest of the time. No rapist is ever given this court sentence.

Please support ^{HCR}~~HB~~ 121 as a sign of your good faith for your constituents. The passage of this bill gains ground on improving social justice in our world for all women.

Mahalo,

Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
District 40 Chair
Makakilo Resident since 1981

"If more people believed in justice, equality would be reality." CMG