

~~Confidential~~

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 4:22 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: CORRECTED TESTIMONY: SCR15 SD1 to be heard Monday, March 23rd at 10:00am in Room 329

Importance: High

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

Representative Yamane, Chair
Representative Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

**LATE
Testimony**

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

DATE: March 23, 2009

RE: Strong Support for SCR15 SD1

Designating the first week of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week in Hawaii is a great proposal and in perfect timing: right before Valentine's Day. Too many of our girls believe that a boy being jealous is a sign of his protectiveness and is "cute" and too many think that if he tells you what to wear and who to hang out with, it's a sign of his caring towards her. These AREN'T signs of true love - they're a pathway to an abusive relationship that revolves around power and control - in short, domestic violence.

Entertainers Rhianna and Chris Brown made headlines weeks ago for Chris's use of violence with his girlfriend, Rhianna, and as local columnist Jade Moon pointed out in her MidWeek "Moonlighting" column, this revelation was an excellent "teachable moment" for parents to educate their kids about dating and domestic violence. It would be nice to have this issue raised as a result of an awareness week vs. another tragedy pointing out the obvious: that one in four women will be a victim of domestic violence at some point their lives and it doesn't matter how rich, famous, pretty, successful or popular she is. The sooner we can provide awareness and education around this issue, the better we'll be at preventing and responding to it, so please support this measure that will take the first step in eliminating Teen Dating Violence in Hawaii.

Most respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Independent Domestic Violence Advocate

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