

SR 11

I testify in support of SR11 and SCR14. As a father of a beautiful daughter and the husband of an amazing wife, I whole-heartedly believe that violence against women should be prevented and ended as soon as possible. Therefore, I ask that that this resolution and concurrent resolution be passed without delay. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michael Bouffard

TO: Senator Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Ihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

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

DATE: March 5, 2009

RE: Support for SCR14 and SR11

Please support SCR14 and SR11 that ask 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Independent Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate