

SR 12

I testify in support of SR12 and SCR15. As a grandmother of a teenage girl, I believe that it is important to the people of Hawaii to become aware of tragedies such as teen dating violence and to seek ways in preventing these problems. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Josephine Besario

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

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
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DATE: March 5, 2009

RE: Support for SCR15 and SR12

In the counseling profession, we say there are two components before change: awareness and understanding. Designating the first week of February as Teen Dating Awareness 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.

Our teenaged daughters, grand-daughters, nieces and neighbors won't know it's abuse or Dating Violence until it's too late: when it's already in motion. The key to prevention is catching the problem BEFORE it goes in to motion and that step is called AWARENESS. 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