



*THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII*

**Testimony to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature, Regular Session of 2009**

House Committee on Human Services  
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Tom Brower, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2009, 8:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

by  
Frances Q.F. Wong  
Senior Judge / Deputy Chief Judge  
Family Court, First Circuit

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 1788, Relating to Family Court

**Purpose:** Mandates that the family court provide relevant information to any statewide victim information and notification program, operated by the department of public safety, relating to juvenile law violators who would have been charged with certain offenses.

**Judiciary's Position:**

While the Judiciary takes no position on the intent of House Bill No. 1788, we respectfully request clarification regarding the following:

1. Is the information requested relating only to those juveniles over whom Family Court jurisdiction was waived and who therefore are subject to prosecution in the adult criminal justice system and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety?
2. If not, then will the Department of Public Safety maintain a confidential version of this statewide victim information and notification program applicable to those juveniles under Family Court jurisdiction pursuant to HRS Chapter 571?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**CLAYTON A. FRANK**  
DIRECTOR

**DAVID F. FESTERLING**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**JAMES L. PROPOTNICK**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1788  
RELATING TO FAMILY COURT**

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Human Services  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

February 5, 2009  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Representative Mizuno, Representative Brower, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) sincerely appreciates the legislature's interest in an automated victim notification system for Hawaii. PSD is already far along in our efforts to develop and implement an automated statewide victim notification system known as the "Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification" (SAVIN) program, which is powered by Appriss' Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system. We have already developed and are currently implementing a statewide automated notification system for Hawaii that is scheduled to go on line February 28, 2009. This effort is currently being funded using a grant from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in the amount of \$706,664.00. In addition, the PSD also received two federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grants, totaling \$390,000, to start up the program.

To better assist us in our efforts and ensure that the system is victim-centered and victim-sensitive, PSD established a Governance Committee comprised of victims of crime, directors from the victim/witness assistance units from each County's Prosecutor's Office, victim advocacy groups, the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) Administrator, the Crime Victims Compensation Commission (CVCC) Executive Director, and representatives from the Attorney General's Office.

Hawaii SAVIN will allow for "open" enrollment for anyone who wishes to be notified of changes in an offender's custody and parole status. Victims of crime will have the ability to register for this service with the various Victim/Witness Assistance Units within each County's Office of the Prosecuting Attorney or they and others can simply go on-line to register at <http://www.vinelink.com>. Operators will also be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at 1-877-VINE-4HI (1-877-846-3444) in order to address basic questions callers may have. The English language system is scheduled to go live on February 28, 2009, and we are targeting March 31, 2009 as the go live date for the Japanese language system. In the near future, we have plans to add the Korean language followed by the Ilocano dialect of the Filipino language. In addition, we are currently working on the possibility of adding in a Hawaiian language script as well.

It is important to note that the current SAVIN system PSD is developing will focus on adult offenders and parolees, as well as juveniles who are tried as adults. Given privacy issues, juveniles adjudicated in family court are not included in the current notification system. In order to implement a more comprehensive automated notification system. PSD welcomes additional cooperation from the Judiciary with respect to court calendar events, including immediate releases from courthouses statewide. The SAVIN system has the ability to receive court event information every 7 minutes and provide appropriate notifications to victims and those that register literally as the events at the court are occurring.

PSD currently has enough funding to complete implementation and further develop Hawaii SAVIN through December 2010. Therefore, it is PSD's intent to seek permanent funding for this program from the 2010 Legislative Session. I welcome the opportunity to provide this committee with a detailed informational briefing regarding Hawaii SAVIN as your schedule permits. I also welcome the opportunity to work with your staff on amending HB 1788 to address those areas that are not currently included in our development and implementation plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**From:** Cheri Michel [REDACTED]@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2009 3:06 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony; Sarah Hunt  
**Subject:** Bill HB1788

**Categories:** Red Category

Dear House Committee on Human Services,

Our family strongly supports victim's notification bill HB1788. We believe that it is a critical step in moving toward creating a safer community here in Hawaii. Please support this bill.

Cheri Michel Brazwell  
91-435 Pupu street  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
808-689-7282  
[cherimichel@earthlink.net](mailto:cherimichel@earthlink.net)

**brower2-Jenna**

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**From:** Rich Witek [alohawitek@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:08 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** Sarah Hunt  
**Subject:** HB 1788

**Categories:** Red Category

I am in favor of HB 1788 because would help to increase communication between government agencies regarding the status of offenders and would add to the safety of victims by ensuring they stay in the loop. Enacting this bill will create a safety net for victims as we move to create a safer environment for the people of Hawaii.

It's time to make Hawaii a safer place to live and raise families. I urge you to vote yes to move this bill forward for the full house vote.

Respectfully,

Rich Witek  
91-247 Lukini Pl  
Ewa Beach