



TO: Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu
Vice-Chair Ken Ito
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer

Please accept this testimony in opposition to HSC49/HR11.

Aloha. We would urge caution in moving forward with requests to the Department of Human Services to conduct research, analysis or data collection while resources are severely limited. Placing added responsibility on public and private agencies at this moment in time causes a burden unlike other times with greater flexibility, adaptability and funds.

It is very important to remember that our specialized domestic violence programs are:

- Dedicated to helping all victims and stopping domestic violence whenever it occurs.
- Clear that violence among intimate partners is wrong regardless of who commits it.
- Recognizes that domestic violence affects everyone – women, men and children. In 2001, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that women account for 85 percent of all victims and men are the victims in 15 percent of the cases.
- Is aware that the U.S. Department of Justice found that, while women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crime overall, they are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by their partners.
- Operating consistently within the law. We make services available to male and female victims, and treatment is available to male and female offenders.

It is our sincere hope that you have confidence that although resources are shrinking in this economic crisis, the community of domestic violence programs and staffing professionals continue to provide appropriate, effective services to the men, women and children who come to us every day seeking help. These services are saving lives. Thank you.

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hscadv **HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

TO: Chair Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ito, and Committee Members

FR: Jane Seymour, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Hearing date and time: Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 2:45pm

RE: Opposition to HCR49 & HR11:

Aloha, my name is Jane Seymour and I am representing the HSCADV, a private non-profit agency which serves as a touchstone agency for the majority of domestic violence programs throughout the state. For many years the HSCADV has worked with the Hawaii Legislature by serving as an educational resource and representing the many voices of domestic violence programs and survivors of domestic violence.

HSCADV opposes HCR49/HR11

During a time when the state is facing economic troubles and departments and agencies are challenged with doing more with less, the HSCADV would caution against asking the DHS to use its limited resources to conduct research, data collection, or analysis.

Domestic violence services in the State of Hawaii are committed to helping victims and ending domestic violence, regardless of the gender of the perpetrator. Programs are accessible and available to provide support to both male and female victims, and treat both male and female offenders.

However, the HSCADV would like to point out that domestic violence is not a gender neutral crime, and males are the vast majority of batterers. According to a 2003 report by the U.S. Department of Justice, approximately 85% of victims of domestic violence are women, while only 15% are men. Additionally, of the 15% of men who were victims of domestic violence, a percentage of these men are abused by a male partner in a homosexual relationship.

During these economically troubling times, it is essential that the programs and staff have the resources and financial support to provide to meet the critical needs of the men, women, and children who suffer as a result of domestic violence.

We respectfully request that you hold HCR49 and HR11. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.