

SB 1103

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1103 SD1

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Feb. 26 2009, 9:00 am

Senate Conference Rm 211

Measure Title: RELATING TO EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

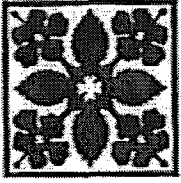
To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim

From: Amy Agbayani, co-chair Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 __

The Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR) was established to promote civil rights, diversity and equity for all people in Hawaii. HFCR strongly supports SB 1103 SD which establishes a commission to identify existing laws that are obsolete, redundant, conflicting or ineffective. We believe that this bill should be supported by legislators as it is to their interest as well as the interest of the public that legislation passed is monitored and assessed. Government agencies should already be doing the work requested in SB 1103 as part of their current responsibilities. We believe that the legislature, consumers and citizens will benefit because public policies approved by the legislature and the governor will be appropriately implemented. We are very supportive of having public comment incorporated in the bill as their experience with the specific laws is useful information for governmental administrators and policy makers.

We respectfully request your support for sb 1103 SD 1

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Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus

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A State Chapter of the
National Women's
Political Caucus

February 26, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Faye Kennedy, President, Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus

RE: SB1103 SD1 Relating to Effective Legislation.
(Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 9:00am in Room 211)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Good morning, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. I am Faye Kennedy representing the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus and submitting testimony in support of SB1103 SD1 which establishes a Commission on Effective Legislation, to be administratively placed under the Ombudsman. It requires the Commission to be composed of representatives from the Executive departments, University of Hawaii, Judiciary and other appropriate State entities to identify existing laws that are obsolete, redundant, conflicting, or ineffective. The measure requires the Ombudsman to report to the Legislature.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT: The Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus agrees with the amendments made in SD1, however, would like to change the effective date to July 1, 2011 rather than 2070 "to facilitate further discussion." It's ironic that the Senate Judiciary Committee thinks it would take 61 years of further discussion to understand this measure.

The Legislature passes hundreds of bills each session. How does anyone know if those bills are being enforced and effective? And to what extend is law effective? Who is accountable? This bill would help to provide this information through a review of the laws in a systemic method and keep departments and officials accountable that the letter of the law is being enforced.

The Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus was established in 1981 and is a multi-partisan organization committed to increasing women's participation in the political process and increasing their representation in elected and appointed office. HWPC also supports male candidates committed to its goals. HWPC is dedicated to equality in employment, stopping all violence against women, and improving the health and well-being of women and families.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, I urge your Committee to pass this measure with a more reasonable effective date. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB1103 SD1.