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**THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR  
THE HONORABLE LES IHARA, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

January 28, 2010

**RE: SENATE BILL 2044; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS**

**HEARING: January 28, 2010, 1:50 p.m., Conference Room 016**

Good Morning Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Human Services Committee, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney provides the following testimony **in support of S.B. 2044**, which proposes to make an appropriation to continue funding for emergency domestic violence shelters across the state.

Few measures that you consider this Legislative session are more certain to save lives than the appropriation in S.B. 2044. Domestic violence shelters have served as the backbone of the safety net for domestic violence victims for the last thirty years. Without these shelters and their associated programs for battered women, men, and children, our communities statewide would be littered with a panoply of additional social and criminal justice ills. Ironically, it has been noted that not only have the deaths of battered women declined drastically as we have implemented emergency violence shelters on every island, but nationally far fewer men have died as the result of a domestic violence encounter. Few alternatives (aside from lengthy and continued incarceration of batterers) has the impact that domestic violence shelters have had. They provide a critical aid to the work of law enforcement when victims, or potential victims, can be quickly whisked away to a shelter and out of the reach of their violent partner. The safe and nurturing environment of our domestic violence shelters also provides an opportunity (often for the first time) for a shell shocked victim to learn that they do not have to live a life dominated by their partner's violence to them and their children. The support provided by shelters goes far

beyond providing physical safety as they help link victims with a multitude of other legal, criminal justice, and social services resources. But it is more than individual lives that are stake with this proposed appropriation, it is the health and well being of communities across the state that benefit from the availability of adequately funded domestic violence shelters.

For the above reasons we strongly urge your support for S.B. 2044. Thank you for your time and consideration.