

Chairman Chun Oakland, Chairman English, and honorable members of the committee,

My name is Aaron Kamakawiwoole, a resident of Ewa Beach and a research analyst at ParentalRights.org. The following testimony addresses the alarming global events which affirm the need for an amendment to the United States Constitution which would forever protect the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. In particular, I would like to focus on the rising child slavery and child violence phenomenon in countries which devalue the family.

Child Trafficking and slavery is increasing across the globe. According to 2008 estimates by the US State Department, there are over 1.2 million new children trafficked each year, with an additional 1 million children trafficked for the purpose of sexual slavery.¹ Countries which have interfered with the raising of children by their parents are universally seeing a rise in the number of children involved in organized crime and various forms of slavery.

In South Africa, “children are recruited to run errands, spy on potential and actual ‘clients,’ and gain access to areas and quarters which are difficult for or closed to adults.”² In April 2009, the United Kingdom reported a 90 percent increase in child trafficking: 957 cases from April to December of 2008.³ The British authorities also note that “it is likely that only a fraction of the victims are actually caught”—the numbers are far higher than what was reported.⁴

The Italian and Sicilian Mafia have aggressively pursued child operatives for a number of missions, ranging from theft and subterfuge to assassination and pornography.⁵ Italy signed the CRC on January 26, 1990; it was one of the first signatory states.⁶ Eight years later, 8,000 Albanian girls were trafficked through Italy as prostitutes, with the number of new prostitutes from Albania *alone* reaching almost 1,000 by the year 2000.⁷ In 2000 there were also between 10,000 and 12,000 children actively involved in organized crime, with the number of cases of juvenile crime reaching almost 70,000 cases.⁸ Of these crimes, 2,600 cases involved violent robbery, almost 20,000 involved automobile thefts, over 500 cases involved serious assault, and almost 1,700 cases involved the use of illicit drugs.⁹

The Sicilian Mafia has been using Roma Gypsy children under the age of 14 as hired blades and weapons manufacturers in their factories for over a decade, because they “are too young to be tried as criminals.”¹⁰ The Chief of Police in Caltanissetta, Sicily, noted that children are usually used “in support roles, acting as lookouts and collecting weapons,” but also noted that “the age at which youths start to kill has reduced significantly.”¹¹ Children 11 years and younger are routinely trained by the Sicilian Mafia to kill—and kill without remorse.¹²

Why is child crime rising? Chris Hume, Director of Practice and Performance with the Youth Justice Board in the United Kingdom, notes that it is “obvious” that these crimes would not occur if parents and the home environment were stronger— He bemoans the lack of parental

¹ <http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/learn/globalissues-child-trafficking>.

² http://www.christianaction.org.za/newsletter_uca/uca_1995-ed1_crimeandcorruption.htm.

³ <http://crimeconflict nexus.wordpress.com/2009/04/16/increase-in-child-trafficking/>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/italy.htm>.

⁶ http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/peo_rig_of_the_chi_con_sig-people-rights-child-convention-signatories.

⁷ <http://www.globalmarch.org/worstformsreport/world/italy.html>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

involvement. Men and women across the globe recognize the critical role of the family unit in protecting children and providing for their future.

In Benin, we find similar stories. Looking back on their lives, individuals who were forced to live with extended relatives instead of their parents as children because of financial reasons have pointed to the severing of familial bonds as the reason for easy child trafficking and various forms of domestic abuse.¹³ In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, young girls are routinely used as sex slaves at night and combatants in tribal wars during the day.¹⁴ Why? Because the family is absent: they have no one to protect them or instruct them on how to live a better life.

David Nowell, President of Hope Unlimited for Children, has worked for decades in Brazil to reconstruct the family.¹⁵ He notes how millions of children have found themselves on the streets in Brazil because of the dissolution of the family, leading children to engage in illicit and harmful activities. According to Nowell, "Children now have the legal right to become truant, join gangs and abuse alcohol. In no small measure due to the trauma visited upon Brazil by this convention, the country's streets are now home to millions of children. Childhood drug dealing and prostitution are rampant."¹⁶ If parents were involved, this would not be the case, he argues.

The universal nature of the problem requires us to be ready for problems here at home. The best answer is to affirm and defend the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children, encouraging their involvement in their child's social and moral development. The Parental Rights Amendment (HJR 42, SJR 16), will both protect the rights of parents while maintaining the rights of law enforcement to intervene in the case of child abuse and child neglect. Such action provides effective enforcement through parents and preservation of our most critical traditions.

Our state, which prizes the family as one of its most foundational values, should be taking the lead in fighting for the preservation of parental rights in our nation. Such a stance would shake the nation and energize others to better protect the rights and meet the needs of children by empowering their parents. Good parents raise their children well: we should preserve that right.

I strongly urge the committee to protect parental rights by supporting SCR 74.

Kindest regards,

Aaron Kamakawiwoole

¹³ <http://crs.org/benin/child-trafficking/>.

¹⁴ <http://stopchildslavery.com/2010/02/13/young-girls-held-as-soldiers-in-dr-congo/>.

¹⁵ David Nowell lives in Tennessee, but has worked for decades in Brazil. You may view the article here: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100318/OPINION03/3180325/1008/OPINION01/U.S.+should+take+a+pass+on+UN+child+rights+act>

¹⁶ Ibid.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 6:30 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: xtrawytcoolwhip@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR74 on 3/29/2010 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/TIA 3/29/2010 1:20:00 PM SCR74

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Catherine
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: xtrawytcoolwhip@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE
STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hello. My name is Catherine Gardiner. As a sixteen-year-old constituent, I am seeking your support for the parental rights amendment (through adoption of SCR 74 and SR 30) to stop the alarming trend towards government interference in family matters, as the following case exemplifies:

A West Virginia mother was shocked when a local circuit judge and a family court judge ordered her to share custody of her four-year-old daughter with two of the girl's babysitters. Referring to the sitters as "psychological co-parents," the justices first awarded full custody to them, only permitting the mother to visit her daughter four times a week at McDonalds. Eventually she was granted primary custody, but forced to continue to share her daughter with the sitters.¹

¹ *In Re: Visitation and Custody of Senturi N.S.V.*, 221 W.Va. 159, 652 S.E. 2d 490 (2007)

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This case attests to the unforeseen harms that this resolution would prevent. In court case after court case, judges are denying the role of the parent in raising their own children and instead placing the government in a “parental” role in a child’s life.

As a teenage daughter, I want a family bond, not government bondage. And I am not alone in this fight for our parents’ freedom to raise their children as they see fit. In a recent MTV/Associated Press Survey, 1,280 teenagers were asked to identify what makes them happy. The overwhelming answer: spending time with their family. Nearly three quarters responded that their relationship with their parents made them most happy.² Don’t let this joy be taken away by governmental powers. If you are a parent, you know how important family is. Can you imagine only being able to give advice instead of discipline to your son and daughter? You have the power to stop those ready to take this right away from all American parents.

I urge you to support the Parental Rights Amendment (through the adoption of the SCR 74 and SR 30). Help keep the government out of parenting. Our nation can barely take care of itself as it is; there is no way it could take care of us kids, too. That is the role of the parent. Please support this amendment by adopting the two resolutions before you today.

Thank you for your time.

Very respectfully,

Catherine Gardiner

² <http://www.theledger.com/article/20070821/NEWS/708210372>

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TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH,
CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Chelsea Tyson. I am a 15 year-old home schooled student testifying in support of these resolutions which support amending our national Constitution to include parental rights.

I believe that we, as a state, need to show that we support the parental rights amendment for America's Constitution because without it, there will be many opportunities for parental rights to be attacked and possibly taken away. Currently, there has been much pressure for the United States to pass the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This would severely limit parents from guiding and disciplining their children. In fact, the UNCRC would even enable children (anyone under 18 years of age) to sue their parents for making them do things against their will.

Being a teenager, at first glance this did not seem too bad—more rights for us children. However, on second thought, I began to realize one day many of us will grow up and also be parents; then what? Also, parents may discipline us and give us restrictions that we think aren't

fair and we may feel like we need a right to “take this to court,” but really these are the lessons that will help us make wiser decisions in the future. The scariest aspect of not having this amendment to the Constitution is that the UNCRC has more of a chance of being adopted and if children sue their parents and win, they can be taken from their home and into the government’s care. Since this convention originated in the U.N., the U.S. government won’t be the one overseeing how this will be enforced.

Although this resolution will not affect Hawaii immediately, it will show our national government that Hawaii is taking a stand on this very significant issue. I believe that it is important for these resolutions to pass because parents are the ones who lay the foundation of how we will behave when we become adults and live on our own. Without them, who will be able to give us the direction that we need along with the love and encouragement that we can always depend upon? Please pass SCR 74 and SR 30 to support parental rights so that our parents can continue supporting us.

I thank the committees for taking the time to read my testimony on this important issue.

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TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI CHAIRS, AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hello, my name is Christa Brown. I am 15 years old and I am writing today in support of SCR 74. I believe parents need their rights clearly laid out in the United States Constitution. This amendment is critical to preserving our keiki, and the core Ohana unit of Hawaii. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

I am fortunate to have two incredible parents. I respect them and hope to parent my children as they have parented me. They taught me to respect my elders and the wisdom my elders share with me because they had so many years of experience, which I do not have. They taught me to obey those who have that experience. One of the key components of the way my parents raised me was discipline. When I lied, they spanked me. When I was selfish, they reprimanded me. They helped me learn to obey through discipline.

The example that I will share with you is a simple reminder of the importance of instilling obedience to our parents, tutus, aunts and uncles in Hawaii's keiki. I went hiking at Makapu'u lighthouse with my family a few years ago. My brother, sister and I were playing in dried out mud pit below the trail after the hike, hopping from one cracked piece to the other. My parents suddenly shouted from the top of the pit, "Christa! Turn around and come back IMMEDIATELY!" I was having fun and did not see why I needed

to come back, but because my parents had instilled in me the wisdom of listening to my elders, I turned around and went back.

As I looked behind me, I saw that a few feet from where I had been my brother was halfway up to his knees in thick mud and was struggling to get out. After straining for a while, he eventually made it out. If I had not listened to them and taken *one step* further, I would have sunk into the mud as well.

While this is a simple example, it applies to so many other areas of life as well. If our parents are not allowed to prevent us from having a facebook account when we are not mature enough to distinguish friend from stalker, or they cannot prevent us from hanging out with the wrong friends who encourage us to do drugs or drink alcohol, or they cannot block our computers so we cannot look at pornography on the internet, what type of society will that leave our children and their children?

The parental rights amendment will not allow parents to abuse their children, but will allow them to protect the keiki therefore preserving our Ohana and the entire community of Hawaii.

Thank you, and please pass this resolution!

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
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TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Cissy Boyer and I am a homeschooling mom and Realtor in the state of Hawaii. I am testifying in strong support of SCR74 and SR30 affirming the parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution and urging the United States Congress to propose this constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.

I believe a constitutional amendment is the only way to protect the rights of parents to raise their children. It will also protect American families from international law that has been so harmful in undermining the role of the parent in a family.

If parental rights are allowed to further erode, our nation and world will pay a severe price. If parents are not allowed this right, who will this responsibility fall to? No government can fill the critical role a parent plays in the life of a child.

As a child, I experienced the strong bond of an intact family. I believe this has been the primary strength that has taught and encouraged me, in turn, to have a close, healthy relationship with my husband and two children, ages 13 and 15.

I thank these committees for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and humbly ask that these resolutions be adopted.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
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TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE
HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS:

My name is Drake Boyer and I am a 15 year old homeschooled student in my sophomore year of high school. I am testifying in support of SCR74 and SR30 affirming the parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution and urging the United States Congress to propose this constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.

As a child my parents play a vital role in my life. Without them, I would have no stable direction in which to lead my life; instead I would follow peers or those – who unlike my parents – do not have my best interests at hand. This is

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why protecting parental rights is of extreme importance to me. I – like every other minor in the world – need a model on which to shape my own life. In most cases the best people for the job are the ones closest to home.

In my life, I have made many mistakes, but each time my parents were there with firmness and compassion to lead me down the right path. With love, my parents continually impact my life by instilling moral values in my life and by teaching me how to be a responsible citizen. The rights of parents must be protected; it is in the best interests of parents, children, and – most importantly – families.

I thank these committees for the opportunity to present testimony and ask that these measures be adopted.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
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TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE
HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS:

My name is Elli Boyer and I am an 8th grade homeschooled student. I am testifying in strong support of SCR74 and SR30 affirming the parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution and urging the United States Congress to propose this constitutional amendment to the states for ratification.

Having a mom and dad in my life to teach, comfort, and to implant moral principles in me is something that is irreplaceable. Being human, I have made many mistakes in my life and if it were not for my parents I would not be able to

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get back on my feet. Their guidance and unconditional love toward me, even when I did not welcome it, helped shape me into a better person.

If our parents' right to mold and influence us is taken away, this generation and the generations to come will not have the protection and learn the priceless life lessons that only a parent can give. In many relationships, parents are the most influential people in a child's life because they truly want the best for them.

Only by ensuring parents have these invaluable rights that have been exercised for centuries, can rules and guidelines be set for a child and important decisions made about their future that will ultimately impact their lives forever.

I thank the committees for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and ask that these resolutions be adopted.

**"COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS**

**Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

Monday, March 29, 2010

TIME:

1:20 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Senate Concurrent Resolution 74

Hi, my name is Gracie Cockett and I am a 15 year old home-educated student. I am testifying in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 74.

Ultimately, I'm in support of this measure because I believe that we, as kids, as teens, need our parents. For example, recently MTV and the Associated Press surveyed teenagers to identify what makes them happy. 73% of the teens surveyed answered that their relationships with their parents make them most happy. This shows that we do need our parents. A lot of teens, myself included, look up to our parents for our foundation. Even if I don't initially agree with them on everything—such as if I'm allowed to see a new movie or not—I know that my parents are acting out of love for me and they make their decisions with my best interest in mind. I know that I, personally, would much rather have my parents, who have known me for my whole life, make important decisions for me, rather than having the government, who doesn't know me at all, make these huge decisions. In Hawaii, *ohana* is very important to us. As the famous quote from Lilo and Stitch goes: "Ohana means family, family means no one gets left behind or forgotten." By supporting Senate Concurrent Resolution 74, we are supporting parental rights and the *ohana*...because we're making sure that no one gets left behind or forgotten—whether it be kids or their parents. So I would ask you to please support SCR 74.

Gracie Cockett

808-395-8648

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
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TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
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TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2010

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SCR 74, AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE
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AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

My name is Halley Hobson. I am a 16-year-old resident of Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I am in strong support of these resolutions. These resolutions affirm a proposed amendment to the U.S Constitution stating that parents have the fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of their own children, without extending those rights to child abusers in cases where the government demonstrates a compelling interest. In addition, the two resolutions, before you today, will proclaim that Hawaii is in support of the family, the "Ohana", which is our identity as a community and as a state. The whole nation knows that the Hawaii State Legislature is considering this motion, and hundreds of thousands of Americans are holding their breath as we make this decision -- never before in our history had this happened for our small but great state, so we should

be decisive and act quickly to protect our keiki by voting to protect parental rights explicitly in our U.S Constitution.

Lines (6-8) of the resolutions states, "Our nation has historically relied first and foremost on parents to meet the real and continuing needs of their own children." The U.S. Supreme Court cases of *Pierce vs. Society of Sisters (1925)* and *Wisconsin vs. Yoder (1972)*, states that parents have the authority coupled with the high duty to establish the direction and education of their own children for future obligations later in life and that such authority and duty has been "established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition."

However, as the resolutions point out in line (20) the U.S Supreme Court case of *Troxel vs. Granville (2000)* ignited confusion with regard to parental rights. The majority opinion, written, by Justice Scalia, proclaimed, "Parental rights are not explicit in the constitution therefore parents have no fundamental rights or history of those rights whatsoever."

I believe there is not government, however much it believes it can, and well-intentioned it may be, can ever give what the parent is willing to give for his/her child. There is much hurt and heartache. The parents devotes themselves to the child and sacrifices life no one else, to make sure this child for whom they are responsible is protected and loved. They sacrifice, not because the child is a mere 'ward' for whom they must care, but because they want their children to have opportunities they never had. The dream for this child is they will delight in teaching their family these personal principles and moral values. That is why this measure is so important. Therefore, we need to agree to these resolutions and start putting that strong Hawaiian support for this measure, not just for the parents but for the protection of their children.

When I was in second grade, I was sharing with my visiting grandfather what I was learning in school. As I shared, he asked me many questions and I was excited to tell him what I knew, even though I did not fully understand, the subject we were discussing. Later he went to my mother and informed her that I had been taught the beginnings of sex education.

My mother had not been informed by the school, nor did the school offer any explanations for the teacher's actions.

My mother and father had a right to teach me about sex, a time appropriate for me. Yet this right was denied because my teacher took it into her own hands. This idea that the state can make better decisions for me than my parents, cannot be continued. Therefore the rights of parents must be protected and strengthened for the protection of the children.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution does not extend these parental rights to child abusive parents. Section 2, empowers the government to limit a person's rights, as long as the government first accomplishes a heightened burden of proof in specific situations. This higher standard allows the government to intervene in certain situations of child abuse or neglect, where the state can clearly make a compelling interest in intervening in the family, but also shields the rights and privacy of innocent families from the reach of the government's grasp.

An MTV poll proved that 76% of American's children, teens and young adults consider their parents as an essential part of their upbringing and that without their parents' decisions on their lives it would be difficult for them pursue other obligations in the world. I did not vote in this poll but I do agree and stand strong to the facts that parental rights have been an enduring American tradition and should be honored as such by allowing this amendment to be embedded in our U.S Constitution and spearheaded by our state.

Children, teenagers and young adults are not treated like they used to be, 50, 25 or even ten years ago. The pressures of every day life have intensified for children and young adults. Without the parents' authority to direct the upbringing of their own children, the children would be drowning in the pressures and influences of modern life. Should children be able to join gangs? Watch and listen to inappropriate music, movies and video games? To be influenced by Internet bullies, Internet predators, Internet pornography and body image? Pressured to perform in drugs, alcohol, dating, sex and abortions? We need to respect the parental involvement and authority in their children's lives, so the children are protected from such horrible things that I just listed.

In the young years of Corrie ten Boom, as depicted in her autobiography, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie loved to ask loads of questions. It was no surprise that every child would be curious about the world around them. During her train ride to Amsterdam with her father, Corrie asked a question that had been bothering her every since a bunch of girls mentioned it to her after school: “What is Sexsin?”

“To my surprise my father said nothing to my question this time. At last he stood up, lifted his traveling case from the rack over our heads, and set it on the floor. ‘Will you carry it off the train, Corrie?’ he said. I stood up and tugged at it. ‘It’s too heavy,’ I said. ‘Yes,’ he said. ‘And it would be a pretty poor father who would ask his little girl or any child to carry such a load. It’s the same way, Corrie, with knowledge. Most knowledge is too heavy for children. When you are older and stronger, you can bear it. For now you must trust me to carry it for you, until your Ma and I decide to give it to you.’ And I was satisfied. Wonderfully at peace. I was content to leave those all answers to all my hard questions in my father’s keeping.”

Without my parents’ direction, guidance and discipline, I would be lost in the influences, pressures, and hard questions of this modern society. I have gone off track before, I am not perfect. Yet I know that my parents have the right to be my authority in my life, which makes me feel protected and secure, that all of life’s obligations, influences and pressures are not something that I have to carry on as burdens in my youth.

Historically, the role of parents has been granted, without reservation, in order to guide the upbringing and education of their own child. The only way to successfully secure the foundational rights of parenthood currently and generations to come is a constitutional amendment that specifically preserves the parent-child relationship from unnecessary government interference. This amendment will secure the liberties of parents are respected to raise their children, and their children are given the proper parental protection and safety.

I thank the committees for taking the time to consider my testimony on this important issue, and I know that by supporting these resolutions, the families of Hawaii will benefit and grow strong.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Kimberly Marquez [mkplus4@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 9:06 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: FW: Parental Rights Amendment
Attachments: image001.jpg

DATE: Monday , March 29, 210

TIME: 1:20 p.m.

PLACE : Conference Room, State Capitol, 425 South Beretania Street

Thank you Senators and Representatives for this opportunity to express my views on Parental Rights

My name is Hannah Marquez, and I'm senior in high school, and I've been homeschooled my entire life. I've flourished under the love, wisdom, teaching and discipline of my parents. Both my Mother and my Father have sculpted and molded me into who I am, and I love them for all they have done for me. Without them I would have no morals, ethics, or manners. Today many are considering passing an amendment to the Constitution securing the rights of our parents to educate and raise us children up. Today I stand before you all today to support this right. For who better deserves to raise a child than the parents who gave life to them and loves them? As a homeschooler, many could accuse me of being brainwashed by my parents. Maybe some of you are wondering if my parents forced me to come speak in support of their rights in order to give them more control and power over me. To those skeptics I would simply answer that it was my own idea to come up here and support an amendment that I believe will keep the foundation of our nation's strength, the

family unit, protected. In Hawaii, the idea of "Ohana" is integral to the Aloha in our state. Please protect this fundamental right, without a strong family our nation will crumble. Children cannot raise themselves; we need the wisdom and love of parents that guide us into responsible, caring citizens. Though no parent is perfect, neither is a child; however parents possess far more experience and knowledge in life than any child. Parents deserve the respect and authority that has fortified our great nation for centuries. Please support Parental Rights and engrave these unspoken rights onto the heart of our nation, the Constitution, thank you and may God bless America.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE
STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, THE HONORABLE J. KALANI
ENGLISH, THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS:

My name is Janet Hobson; I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am testifying in support of Senate
Concurring Resolution No. 74 and Senate Resolution No. 30.

When I was a young girl of 11, growing up in Southern California, there was much to discover.
I was completely unaware of it, but an event occurred that year would prove to change my life.
On a warm summer evening in July, I sat gazing through the kitchen window. My partner
in mischief, Suzie, who was also my neighbor, hurried across my front yard to her home. She
yelled toward me, "I am on restriction, I'm not supposed to be out! "...We had gotten into
trouble that day...I don't remember why. I do remember thinking, "Why didn't my
parents discipline me for what we did? Didn't they care that I had misbehaved? Didn't they
care about me?" I wanted to be disciplined, to be disciplined... The act of training
one to do the things they are supposed to do. Or is being disciplined the actual ability to

carry out those responsibilities? I believe it is both. To be disciplined (by my parents) helps me to be disciplined (as a child/an adult). I wanted my parents to do that for me. The majority of the time discipline is a positive act and sought-after characteristic.

Unfortunately for me, I lived in a permissive household. We had no boundaries, no discipline, if you will, and I felt lost. Once in a while rules were attempted, and later my parents did try to reign me in, but I was already in wise in my own eyes. I needed them to exercise their responsibility as parents to help me make right decisions as a child and later in my life as I will demonstrate.. I needed it. They did not deliver, until it was almost too late. I was a rebellious teen.

Living in the reality with no foundational training in my early years, and now in a strained relationship with my parents I easily aligned myself with peers who had a place for me in their group. The road chosen was one in which my behavior was out of control, behavior I think about now and cringe.

Damaged relationships littered my destructive path, and ultimately this road lead to a Planned Parenthood clinic to end a pregnancy.. .. I can't tell you how many times I have grieved over the fact that there is a child missing from my family, a child I will never hold, never rock to sleep, never care for, a child who will never know the love I have for him. Swiped away quickly in a 20 minute procedure. The lifting of banned abortion procedures in 1973, is the event I refer to that altered my life. I was 11 when the Roe vs. Wade decision was handed down, one year later I was taught in junior high school about sex, an emotionless, moral less teaching where the message was "you're going to do it anyway, so use birth control, and if you get pregnant there is an escape route. I took it, not knowing the consequences,

having no discipline to make the right decision not to have sex in the first place, and with a strained relationship with my parents, no one to talk to or so I thought.

I have experienced most of what teenagers are pressured by. When I comment on what teens are doing now, I hear "They're only young once" Yes, But, why must they have all the knowledge dumped on them without the ability to handle it? "They're going to find out sooner or later." Yes, But, they haven't been prepared for it. Children need to be protected from day one.

Parenting is Not for Cowards- the title of one parenting book states. How true. We must know how to do so much, with very little on the job training. It is scary to sit up in the middle of the night caring for a child with a raging fever, vomiting uncontrollably, or just crying for what seems like hours without knowing what is wrong.. We try to soothe and comfort, but nothing seems to help. These are the times that try a parents' soul. Yet we do it, we work through it and we come out of each trial and count it as joy because we survived! It strengthens us. We're there for the ups and downs. Then the time comes when they can tell you what is wrong, what their needs are, their thoughts, their hurts, their relationships, dealing with friends who didn't act like friends today. In this day children must deal with all these pressures in addition to internet dangers, cyber- bullying, and on-line predators. Gangs, drugs, alcohol abuse, drunk driving, date- rape, STDs, destructive relationships, break-ups and the trauma that follows. Parents are the first line of defense to protect them from these dangers, to place consequences on poor behavior, and give them the discipline they need to say no to these pressures . Parental rights should be affirmed by supporting the Parental Rights Amendment, in Hawaii and or our nation.

To find out a young girl of 16 can be sexually active with a partner of any age, can obtain an abortion on demand, and seek psychological or medical treatment all without the consent of the parent, was surprising. But in order to take the test to get the permit to drive a car requires the signature of both parents, to receive the flu vaccine requires a parents' signature.

This seems mixed up. All of the above should require parental consent.

What are we teaching our youth? We're teaching them that they don't need us. That they can make the important decisions on their own. They've been told they know best. The issues we burden our children with are far too great, and carry too great a consequence to handle at such a young age. They're still trying to figure out who they are, what they want to do with their lives, and are wrestling with the eternal question, 'why am I here?' Why do we, as a society, continually lay more and more burdens on them, while slowly dismantling the role of parent to relegate their role to a position of one who knows less than the child. We've been told the parent knows nothing of what the child is going through. I beg to differ.

Society tells us 'women can be sexually free and empowered in their multiple sexual partners' (promiscuity). Now that women have birth control and abortion they have sexual freedom they are told. They are no longer at the mercy of men, and a slave to having babies. I lost big when I gave in to the illusion.

Danielle Crittenden, a Writer for the Huffington Post says in her book, What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us:

Indeed, in all the promises made to us about our ability to achieve freedom and independence as women, the promise of sexual emancipation may have been the most illusory. These days, certainly it is the one most brutally learned. All the sexual bravado a girl may possess evaporates the first time a boy she truly cared about makes it clear that he has no further use for her after his body has been satisfied. No amount of feminist posturing, no amount of

reassurances that 'she doesn't need a guy like that anyway', can protect her from the pain and humiliation of those awful moments after he's gone, when she's alone and feeling not sexually empowered, but discarded.

I would say that the sexual revolution did not free women from being the slaves of men as they thought they were, but we're given over to be enslaved themselves further as objects to be tossed aside. Even worse: they are left with the responsibility of what to do about an 'unwanted pregnancy,' with abortion on demand, not only is the girl thrown aside, the baby is discarded just as swiftly.

Children need their parents to protect them and make the important decisions for them, when they are too young to handle the decisions for themselves. The idea that parenting is outdated, parents out of touch, and children should already have the ability to make important decisions is illusory at best. Legislation and court decisions, especially in the last decade, are eroding the rights, responsibilities and duties of parents. We need the Parental Rights Resolution to pass in Hawaii to, in turn, to support the Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years. ~Mark Twain, "Old Times on the Mississippi" *Atlantic Monthly*, 1874

Children Need parents to give them the wisdom necessary to go out on their own in the right time.
Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Thank you for your service.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jennifer Fuchikami and I am a nineteen year old college student. I am in strong support of SCR 74 and SR 30, which will encourage Congress to pass the Parental Rights Amendment and acknowledge a basic right essential for healthy, cohesive families – that good and fit parents should be allowed to raise their children in the way they decide is best for their family.

In 2000, the Supreme Court case of *Troxel v. Granville* (the most recent Supreme Court case to deal with the subject of parental rights), saw Supreme Court Justices rule that it was “the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children.” As a result, the Justices struck down a statute in the state of Washington that allowed any third party to petition the state courts for child visitation rights over the objections of the parents. Also in this court case, the Justices cite extensively from previous cases that demonstrated that parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children: e.g., *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 232, 92 S.Ct. 1526, 32 L.Ed.2d 15 (1972) “The history and culture of Western civilization reflect a strong tradition of parental concern for the nurture and upbringing of their

children. This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition,” and *Quilloin v. Walcott*, 434 U.S. 246, 255, 98 S.Ct. 549, 54 L.Ed.2d 511 (1978) “We have recognized on numerous occasions that the relationship between parent and child is constitutionally protected.”

However, though *Troxel* and other court cases hold that parental rights are fundamental, it has consistently been ruled that parental rights are implied rights and not explicit according to the U.S. Constitution. An explicit right is clearly stated in the Constitution, such as the freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and the Fifth Amendment. Implied rights are taken from “other general provisions” of the Constitution, which imply that the right exists. For example in the Ninth Amendment, it says, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” This is often used in the protection of rights not specifically listed or recorded in the Constitution. Implied rights are subject to judicial interpretation, in which the courts define what, if any, protection an implied right has.

Though historically, the courts have consistently ruled that implied rights are deserving of the same protection as explicit rights, the danger of having implied parental rights is that its definition is not fully established – the Supreme Court could redefine its meaning whenever it wanted. In *Troxel*, though the Supreme Court Justices had ruled in favor of the parents, they also issued six separate opinions on whether parental rights were protected under the U.S. Constitution.

For example, Justice Thomas voted in favor of the parents, but did not join four of the other Justices’ plurality opinion penned by Justice O’Connor. Thomas’ concurring opinion (meaning that he agreed with the plurality decision, but had different reasons as the basis for his decision) noted that neither the plaintiff nor the defendant had questioned whether the Supreme Court could even acknowledge implied rights and inferred that he might have ruled differently if it had been brought up. In Justice Scalia’s dissenting opinion it is revealed that though he might agree that parental rights are fundamental, he believes that the Supreme Court does not have the authority to enforce them because they are implied and not explicit in the Constitution. Scalia feared that if the Supreme Court

recognized implied rights, the courts could interfere without restraint in family law by reinterpreting and redefining what parental rights are whenever it wanted. Finally, Justices Stevens and Kennedy both wrote dissenting opinions that rejected the opinion of the historic fundamental nature of parental rights. Justice Stevens even argued that a third set of interests – the interest of the state – should always be present in those sorts of conflicts. Unfortunately, many judges put this view into practice, deciding what they believe “the best interest of the child is,” overruling the decision of the parents in cases that don’t have anything to do with divorce court proceedings or “clear and present danger” implications.

These examples and lines 20 – 27 of SCR 74 and SR 30 describe some of the reasons why I believe that the Parental Rights Amendment is needed to protect parents and therefore, their children. Since good parents know their children better than anyone, even than the most well-intentioned stranger, they need to be the ones making the decisions related to their children instead of that stranger.

Some concern over this resolution relates to unfit parents. I realize that I am blessed to have wonderful parents. And even though I may not always agree with every single rule or decision they make concerning me or my siblings, I know that they are doing what they believe is best for us, or that I will see the basis of their reasoning when I am older, since they have a greater wealth of experience in life than I do. However, I understand and acknowledge that this is not the case in every family. Would the Parental Rights Amendment protect parents who abuse or beat their children? The answer is in lines 11 through 15 of these resolutions which quote the proposed Parental Rights Amendment introduced into Congress by Representative Hoekstra of Michigan:

“Section 2: Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.”

This provision ensures that the government will be able to intervene as needed, after proving it has a compelling interest (e.g., abuse or neglect). For example, fundamental First Amendment rights can be restricted if the government can “show that its regulation

Testimony of Jennifer Fuchikami
SCR 74/SR 30
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is necessary to serve a compelling state interest and that it is narrowly drawn to achieve that end,” *Widmar v. Vincent*, 254 U.S. 263, 269-270 (1982).

Parents have one of the most important jobs in the world: to raise and teach the next generation of . . . everything – leaders, teachers, protectors, helpers, and all in between. If we care about parents and appreciate what they do, we should make sure that their fundamental rights as parents are protected. I also may be a parent some day, so that is also why I support these resolutions.

I thank the committees for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and respectfully ask you to adopt SCR 74 and SR 30.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES
FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jordan Kakugawa, I am a home educated student in the ninth grade. I am submitting my testimony in support of SCR 74 and SR 30 on the Parental Rights Amendment.

I believe these resolutions will allow fit parents to be responsible for the well-being of their children. The foundation of our nation is beginning to crumble when we take away parents' rights to raise their children as they deem important and by giving that responsibility to government agencies.

An example of this: A thirteen-year-old boy in Washington State was removed from his parents after he complained to school counselors that his parents took him to church too often. His school counselors encouraged him to call Child Protective Services with his complaint, which led to his subsequent removal and placement in

Testimony of Jordan Kakugawa
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Page 2

foster care. It was only after the parents agreed to a judge's requirement of less-frequent church attendance that they were able to recover their son (parentalrights.org).

In the above example and in numerous other examples, parents are losing their children over absurd circumstances! Passing these resolutions is an important step toward allowing parents to protect their children and to raise them, as our parents have raised us. The right to raise your children in your own home is a fundamental right -- a God-given right!

I thank the committees for the opportunity to present testimony on this critical issue and I humbly ask that you support these resolutions on parental rights.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
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**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES
FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE J.
KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Joshua Kakugawa. I am a full-time student in college and I support SCR 74 and SR 30 on the Parental Rights Amendment.

The greatest blessing that I have in my life is that I have been raised as the son of strong Christian parents. My parents took my education seriously when they agreed on homeschooling me when I was six years old. I recently completed my first semester of college with a GPA of 4.0 while participating on the men's tennis team, being an active member of the school's spirit committee, teaching tennis part time for the USTA, and serving on numerous church ministries and clubs. I honestly don't think I could have completed all these things well, if it wasn't for my parent's decision to homeschool me.

My parents taught me Godly values and corrected me when my attitude was bad. I can see how they modeled for my brothers and me, by putting God in the center of our

Testimony of Joshua Kakugawa
SCR 74 and SR 30
March 29, 2010
Page 2

lives, and how this has helped us to see things positively from a Christian world view. Actually, I am just one example of a typical home-educated high school graduate.

Schools are being eroded with confusing values based on self-centeredness. If these resolutions are passed, families like ours will be able to make a positive difference in communities by being good examples to others. We need to support and build on solid values that have proven to work throughout history, for 2000 years.

I respectfully ask that you vote "YES" to SCR 74 and SR 30, supporting these resolutions to the Parental Rights Amendment, and I thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.



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March 29, 2010

Testimony in Support: SCR 74 and SR 30, Related to Parental Rights Amendment

To: Senator Suzzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair and Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs
From: Katie Reardon, Vice President of Government & Public Affairs
Re: Testimony in Opposition to SCR 74 and SR 30, Related to the Parental Rights Amendment

Thank you for allowing me to testify Resolutions SCR 74 and SR 30. Planned Parenthood of Hawaii opposes the resolutions affirming the Parental Rights Amendment (PRA) and encouraging its ratification. We firmly believe that parents play the most important role in raising and guiding their children. However, we feel that the PRA is unnecessary and overly broad.

Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the fundamental right of parents to raise and education their children as they see fit. We are concerned that the broad language could erode existing Hawaii State laws that seek to protect and empower minors in need, or at the very least will make those laws the subject of litigation. For example:

- HRS Chapter 577D allows certain minors without support over the age of 14 to obtain primary medical care, including screening examinations, immunizations, counseling, medication, and treatment of illnesses or medical conditions without parental consent. The PRA would endanger this protection for some of our most vulnerable youth.
- HRS Chapter 577A allows minors over the age of 14 to consent to a host of medical family planning care, including physical exams for the screening and medication for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, or family planning service. The PRA may endanger this protection by requiring parental consent to all medical care.

Children are best off when their parents are meaningfully involved in their lives and their decisions. Rather than encouraging an amendment that negatively affects the work our community has done to protect children, perhaps we should focus on ways to support parents becoming involved in their children's lives. Please do not pass these resolutions out of your committee. Thank you very much for your time.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE
STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH AND SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND,
CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Kevin Fuchikami and I am an eleven year old homeschooled student. I am in strong support of SCR 74 AND SR 30, which will show Hawaii is in support of the Parental Rights Amendment which states that parents have the right to raise their children as they see fit.

I support this resolution because family is important, especially here in Hawaii. My Mom and Dad are great parents; they provide everything I need and more. They put their children's interests in front of their own. For example, my Dad works a lot so my Mom can homeschool my siblings and I.

I think this resolution is good for Hawaii to pass because Hawaii is all about 'Ohana and it will help protect families.

I thank the committee for the time to read my thoughts on this very important manner and ask that you please pass these resolutions.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE
J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Kristi Fuchikami. I am a seventeen year old home educated student in my senior year. I am in strong support of SCR 74 and SR 30 which would show Hawaii's support of the Parental Rights Amendment which, in turn, would affirm the fundamental rights of parents to raise their children without interference from the government.

Lines 6-8 of page one state: "Our nation has historically relied first and foremost on parents to meet the real and continuing needs of their children." There is a good reason for this: parents know their children best. They honestly want what is best for their children. I believe your parents were like mine when they were raising you. "Take this class," "learn to play this musical instrument," or whatever it may have been. At the time, you may have wondered why you were doing it, but I am sure it has been helpful in your life or that you truly enjoy it now.

Now I realize that there was a bit of concern about passing this resolution because we may have trouble with parents who abuse their children. Lines 11-15 on page two state: "Section 2: Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right

Testimony of Kristi Fuchikami
SCR 74 and SR 30
March 29, 2010
Page 2

without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.” To me, this implies that the government is free to intervene in abusive situations. We also have laws that protect children in such cases.

SCR 74 is the perfect pro-family resolution for Hawaii to pass because it is good for the keiki, their parents, and the whole ‘Ohana. Hawaii is called “The Aloha State,” a paradise of beautiful waters and majestic mountains where families are not only important, they are everything.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this important issue and ask that you please pass these resolutions.

TO THE JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010

01:20:00 PM

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 742, AFFIRMING
THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN-OAKLAND, CHAIR; LES HARA, CHAIR;
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is ~~Lance Hoopai~~ Lance Hoopai, and I am a 15-year-old high
school student, currently residing in Aiea. I solidly support this resolution,
as I believe that it will only bring benefits to the Ohana in Hawaii. By
passing this resolution, Hawaii's legislature will voice its support of the
family unit.

Throughout history, parents have been universally recognized as their
children's caretakers, by sole virtue of the that they knowlege their own
child's strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes better than anyone else.
In many cases, the parent can judge their own son's or daughter's actions
better than the child can.

Putting the right for parents to raise their children in the
Constitution will create little to no adverse effects. Allowing this resolution
to pass and the amendment to undergo ratification will enforce only an
already ongoing process in the state of Hawaii.

However, some opponents may interpret this amendment as an open
door to parental child abuse. Parental rights, as they assert, will also bring the
right to do whatever parents want to their child or children, which includes
abuse and neglect. However, this represents a sore misinterpretation of the

amendment; the second article states "Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served." In other words, if the government proves a child has undergone neglect or abuse, the law will strip that specific parent of the right to raise his or her child. Then, the state's child abuse laws or legal guardian laws will deal with the child and parent.

In light of the above facts, I adamantly support this resolution and the amendment. Passage will set parental rights in stone, while at the same time protecting the child from any abuse.

I thank the committee for taking time to read my testimony on this issue. Please know that by passing this bill, you will aid in the development of Hawaii's keiki by granting parents the permanent right to raise their children.

TO THE JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION
AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010

01:20:00 PM

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 72, AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN-OAKLAND, CHAIR, LES IHARA, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lanson Hoopai, and I am a 15 year old high school student, currently residing in Aiea. I solidly support this resolution, as I believe that it will only bring benefits to the Ohana in Hawaii. By passing this resolution, Hawaii's legislature will voice its support of the family unit.

Throughout history, parents have been universally recognized as their children's caretakers, by sole virtue that they know their own child's strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes better than anyone else. In many cases, the parent can judge their own son's or daughter's actions better than the child can.

Putting the right for parents to raise their children in the Constitution will create little to no adverse effects. Allowing this resolution to pass and the amendment to undergo ratification will enforce only an already ongoing process in the state of Hawaii.

However, some opponents may interpret this amendment as an open door to parental child abuse. Parental rights, as they assert, will also bring the right to do whatever parents want to their child or children, which includes abuse and neglect. However, this represents a sore misinterpretation of the amendment; the second article states "Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental

interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served." In other words, if the government proves a child has undergone neglect or abuse, the law will strip that specific parent of the right to raise his or her child. Then, the state's child abuse laws or legal guardian laws will deal with the child and parent.

In light of the above facts, I adamantly support this resolution and the amendment. Passage will set parental rights in stone, while at the same time protecting the child from any abuse.

I thank the committee for taking time to read my testimony on this issue. Please know that by passing this bill, you will aid in the development of Hawaii's keiki by granting parents the permanent right to raise their children.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
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TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND THE HONORABLE
J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Laura Fuchikami and I am a 13 year old homeschooled student. I am in strong support of SCR 74 and SR 30, which would show that the state of Hawaii supports the Parental Rights Amendment.

This amendment would give parents the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children as a fundamental right. Lines 10-15 on page two state: "Section 2: Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served." This seems to state that if children are harmed by their parents, the government is able to step in and handle the situation in the best interest of the child.

Also lines 10-13 on page one state: "The interests of children are best served when parents are free to make childrearing decisions about education, religion, and other areas of a child's life without interference by the government." For example, on my laptop, I have a "cyber sitter." With it my parents are able to block me from going to

Testimony of Laura Fuchikami
SCR 74 and SR 30
March 29, 2010
Page 2

certain sites that are dangerous for children. I am also not allowed to watch certain TV shows because of their violence level, inappropriate language and behavior. I do not mind missing these TV shows though, because I know they can be a negative influence and I can spend my time doing other activities, such as playing in the backyard with my younger brother, reading a book, or helping around the house.

When I was younger, my mom and dad told me "Don't talk to strangers." Now that I am older, I realize that they were, and still are, trying to protect me. I think that this amendment will be a positive change not only for Hawaii, but for all of America.

Thank you for your time and for this opportunity to express my support on this important matter.

March 26, 2010

Dear Senators,

Thank you so much for introducing this Parental Rights Resolution in our State legislature. I am not very familiar with the resolution process, but I ask that you all would approve the measure.

Being a mother of four children, I am very concerned with the erosion I am witnessing to parental rights around our Country. It seems that at least monthly I run into another example where parents are being impeded or restricted from raising their children as them deem right.

In its February 2010 issue, Citizen Magazine featured the article “Island of Intolerance?” The story centered on the public school board of Alameda Island, CA, which in May 2009, “sought to implement a classroom curriculum that presents homosexuality and same-sex relationships in a positive light ... with lesson plans for K-5th grade.” Sadly, “the school board ignored testimonies from concerned parents, who argued the curriculum contradicts their deeply held religious beliefs. Board member Ron Mooney responded by saying students could object to the lessons – at home. Ultimately, the curriculum proposal passed with a 3-2 vote. A December hearing in Alameda Superior Court seeking **to allow parents to opt their children out of the controversial lessons was unsuccessful.** The ruling will be appealed.” This is a very scary situation. Where are the parent’s rights? How can they be denied to “opt” their children out of teaching that is not only controversial at the least, but against their deeply held beliefs? Another frightening aspect of this situation is that it sets precedence for other states, especially Hawaii, being that we are under the same 9th Circuit Court of Appeals!

I have personally experienced the lack of parental rights here at home. I was told by Kaiser that I would be denied access to my children’s health records once they were 14 years of age, unless they signed a waiver, even though I pay for their care! When I requested the waiver they asked, “Which one, for what procedure?” I was astonished and then angry. First, I had to have my **child’s** permission for pertinent information on their health and then I could not get overall access. How dare they deny me this information and who gave them the “right” to do so? This is all so backwards and convoluted - kids can’t even get their ears pierced at Walmart without their parent’s permission if they are under 18 – as it should be!

On a much larger scale, we run the risk of losing many more parental rights with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. If we agree to this treaty, our laws would be superseded by international law, where we have no voice or recourse.

I believe that many laws are enacted with good intentions, like protecting some children from hostile situations, but they deny and erode the rights of the masses. Given the direction that I see our country headed, we need to specifically spell out – in our U.S. Constitution – the absolute right of parents to raise their children. Rights protected by our government, without government interference, providing “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

I urge you to affirm the Parental Rights Amendment.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Poulos

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010

1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE RESOLUTION
NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, THE
HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My Name is Lucas Mansoor and I am a 10th grade homeschooled student and am a member of Generation Joshua. As a 16 year old teenager who loves and is in need of his parents, I stand in strong support of SCR 74 and SR 30. I believe that as a child without my parents I would not be where I am today or even who I am today.

Parent's rights have recently come under fire on a number of different levels and America needs to act. With this Resolution we will be protecting the parents, and by protecting the parent we will in turn protect the child. I know that if America does not take action and protect Parent's Rights, children will eventually be hurt. So many times in my life have I witnessed the love of my parents and how much they care for me. Without that love children grow up and do horrible things, things that may have been prevented by parents. If we think about it, no child could survive with parents to guide them.

Throughout my life's experience I have come to realize that without parents ideas, thoughts, and even punishments I would not be where I am today or I might not be here at all. Without parents the opportunities I have had, positions I have held, friends I have made, and lifestyle I have would not be the same. I could be just another failing highschool student with no care in the world if it were not their guidance. I have 6 siblings and I would hate to see them not grow up to be all they could because we could not protect Parents Rights.

With this resolution the future of every family is being guarded against any threat. Please pass this resolution because it is the best protection for our future American and Hawaiian Ohana. Thank you very much.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE
STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, THE HONORABLE J. KALANI
ENGLISH, THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS:

My name is Mya Mansoor and I am a homeschooled student in my freshman year. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill No. 74. This bill will protect the rights of parents' to direct the upbringing and education of their own children, will in turn benefit the child. As we can see through the entire course of history, parents have been bringing up their children for thousands of years. These parents brought up their children, having the rights to guide their worldviews, their education, and the very first steps of their lives! Without the rights to guide and direct their own children will ultimately lead to the child's undoing because these children will have the choice to go to that party, or go take those drugs or go have sex. Let us imagine a generation that didn't have to listen to their parents! They grow up in an environment where they do not have to listen to authority. They grow up with the experience of having the choice to not listen. Growing up in this kind of lifestyle will show them *to* lead this kind of lifestyle. Not having to listen to authority. Parents should have the rights over their children to *protect* the children. A parent doesn't want their child to do certain things, like

sex and drugs and alcohol, because they've had the experience to know that it is not good! If these parents don't have the rights to tell the children not to do these things, then it will lead to the child's destruction! If a parent does not have the right to tell their child not to go to a party, or not to be in this kind of relationship, that child can ultimately say: "I don't have to listen to you." Let us imagine the mayhem and all of the problems this will bring us! Children now do not have to listen to authority. We need to protect and insure the rights of the parents to protect the children, and to protect our future generations! I respectfully ask you to vote for Senate Bill No. 74.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES
FOR RATIFICATION**

My name is Naomi Kakugawa and I am a resident in the Nuuanu/Puunui district. I am submitting testimony in support of the above resolutions to the U.S. Constitution to protect the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children as a fundamental right.

As a homeschooling parent of fourteen years, I am a firm believer in raising my children with Christian principles based on the Bible--the Word of God. Proper, true discipline teaches our children consequences from unacceptable behavior. But more importantly, it encourages the practice of good attitudes and how the effects of these acts align a child's power of reason to treat others with respect, kindness, and compassion.

My husband and my decision to homeschool is to raise our children to respect God's word--this is our fundamental right as parents which no man-made law should take away.

I appreciate your time in reading my testimony and I ask that you please protect parents' rights in support of these resolutions. The foundation of our nation is the family.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Peter Kamakawiwoole [pastorpeter@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 9:32 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: In favor of SCR74 and SR30

To: Committee on Human Services
SCR 74

AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

SR 30

AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Monday, March 29, 2010

TIME:
1:20 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Senator Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Senator Ihara, and Committee on Human Services members,

I would like to ask you to vote in favor of SCR 74 and SR 30.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Peter Kamakawiwoole, Sr.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 3:30 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: naenae@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR74 on 3/29/2010 1:20:00 PM
Attachments: Testimony PRA

Testimony for HMS/TIA 3/29/2010 1:20:00 PM SCR74

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Renee K.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: naenae@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2010

Comments:

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, March 29, 2010
1:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 30 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE
STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, THE HONORABLE J. KALANI
ENGLISH, THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS:

My name is Richard Hobson and I am a homeschooled student in my freshman year. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 74 and Senate Resolution 30, which would urge The United States Congress to amend the constitution, to state that parents have a fundamental right to decide the upbringing, education, and training of their children for future obligations.

The problem with current law in Hawaii and in the rest of The United States is, that the constitution does not specifically state the right for parents to parent their children. As a result a simple idea has spread in America that the rights parents use everyday are a given, and go without saying. All that an amendment would do is put the rights that parents use today, in writing. By amending the Constitution, America would be declaring the existence and belief in the family, the very unit that this great country is built upon. This Resolution that is before you now is a way to say that Hawaii is in

support of the family, a concept that is so deeply entrenched in our hearts and our way of life.

I can recall when I was eight I had stumbled upon matches on the side of the street. I immediately picked them up and brought them home a mere 20 feet away. I went to the back of my home and light a match. My mother smelled the smoke and found me. There was a consequence for my actions, and I was disciplined accordingly . Looking back I realize that my mother had the right, more importantly the responsibility to make sure I would not harm myself or others. This made me think about the responsibility my parents had to look after me and guide me. Seeing this I believe it would be of most importance to protect and preserve these rights in ink.

Our Founding Fathers, John Adams, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson, stood up and declared independence not only for their country but for their families for their children and for their children's children. They understood the value of family and the authority of parents in their children's lives as common law, understood by everyone. We must now declare and establish once and for all the rights of parents in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave. So I urge you to please vote in support of the family. Thank you for your time and service.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Robin Metcalf [rrmetcalf@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 2:45 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Parental Rights

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly encourage you to support the Parental Rights Amendment Resolution. As Americans we value our beliefs and rights, one of those being how to raise our children. American parents should have the right to direct the upbringing of their children and this right should not be influenced by international politics.

Sincerely,

Robin Metcalf
Kailua, Hawaii

Testimony of Ryan McDonald
JGO, TIA, HMS Committees
Conference Room 224
SCR 74

Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2010

Judiciary, Transportation and International Affairs, and Human Services Joint

Committee Hearing, Conference Rm. 224; March 29, 2010 - 1:20pm

To the Honorable Chair Chun-Oakland and Chair English

Testimony for SCR 74

Aloha Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair English, Vice-Chairs, and members of the committee. My name is Ryan McDonald, I am a 15-year-old home-educated student, and I am here to testify in strong support of SCR 74. This legislation will ingrain the fundamental right of parents to raise their children into Hawaii law, and protect that right for ages to come.

Through the course of history, the family has been treated as the core of civilization. This is especially true here in Hawaii, where so much of our lives revolve around the ohana, and our keiki in particular. That is why it is imperative that we protect the future of children through this legislation, by proving the best means possible of raising them – granting the parents to right to guide their children's upbringing.

Unfortunately, parent's rights are being stripped away in today's society. All across the nation, young students are being taught controversial topics without parental notice or consent, and being taken away by social services without realistic reasoning, all while the parents, in some states, cannot even gain access to their own children's medical records without special permission! The role of

Testimony of Ryan McDonald
JGO, TIA, HMS Committees
Conference Room 224
SCR 74

the parent in a child's life is undeniably crucial, and the rest of the nation is largely ignoring this role.

Personally, being a home-educated student, this issue is very close to my heart. All of my life, my parents have had the right to educate me as they saw fit. Yet, as I speak, this right is becoming more and more fragile. You see, if we do not solidify parental rights into law, the subsequent privileges that mothers and fathers enjoy will fade away, along with the enormous benefits they provide to the keiki.

Furthermore, the keiki have expressed that they actually *want* their parents to be involved in their lives! An MTV poll showed that 70% of teenagers believe that their parent's involvement and direction better prepared them to face the world. This coming *from* the keiki, so if we want to be a keiki-friendly state, we have to take their point of view seriously. I agree with that poll; in order to be productive citizens and educated Americans, we must have been raised well. The best and most capable set of people for that job is none other than the parents.

In light of the above, I hope you have gained a better understanding for the necessity of this legislation. Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony today, and I, again, would urge you to vote in support of SCR 74.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 12:04 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to Parental Rights Resolutions SCR 74 and SR30
Attachments: HWDC SCR74 & SR30 parental rights

Please accept our testimony below and attached. (THE DOCUMENT IS ADOBE FORMAT SO CHOOSE OPEN WITH ADOBE IF NOT AUTOMATIC.)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII WOMEN'S CAUCUS

March 29, 2010

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Transportation International and Intergovernmental Affairs

From: Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair Legislative Committee

RE: **Strong Opposition** to SCR 74 and SR30

In March of last year Danny Friddle was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for raping his infant daughter and recording the attacks on two occasions on videotape.

In June of last year a state jury found a man guilty of attempted manslaughter for throwing around his 7-month-old daughter inside a van, causing permanent brain damage.

Also in June of last year his mother killed Seven-week-old Maika Conrad K. Lawelawe-Westbrook. Doctors found a large bruise on the left side of the baby's head. There was also internal bleeding in his skull and semi-detached retinas, signs of shaken baby syndrome. The Honolulu Medical Examiner's office determined that Maika's death was from abusive head trauma and that the manner of death was homicide.

While we recognize that most parents are not abusers, too many are.

This seemingly innocuous set of resolutions coming out of the religious extremists on the right are attempts to codify for once and for all the status of children as property. These same groups have campaigned against international human rights treaties, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In fact it is this treaty that is the target of the Parental Rights Amendment.

Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and education their children as they see fit.

These resolutions represent an end-run around current statute that protects a minor's ability to get health care to include access to reproduction services. Given that many children need access to such services because they are being abused at home, this is in contradiction to our laws, which put the welfare of the child first.

We would far rather see a resolution urging the worldwide ratification of a children's bill of rights. In Hawai'i we should re-affirm that the best interests of the child are paramount above any other right or privilege. To quote Kahlil Gibran, "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you yet they belong not to you."

Please put the welfare of our keiki above this ill-advised set of resolutions.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i Women's Caucus

Jeanne Y. Ohta

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Human Services

To: Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Transportation, International, and
Intergovernmental Affairs

Re: SCR 74 and SR 30 Affirming the Parental Rights Amendment to the US
Constitution (Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2010, 1:20 p.m., Room 224)

Position: Opposed

I am writing today in opposition to SCR 74 and SR 30 "Affirming the parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution and urging the United States Congress to propose this constitutional amendment to the states for ratification."

The language of the Parental Rights Amendment is unnecessary and overly broad. Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. This broad language could erode existing Hawai'i laws that balance the medical care and family planning needs of minors whose health could be compromised with the rights of parents. The health and well-being of minors must be taken into consideration. This amendment would undo the work our community has done to protect children and their needs.

I urge this committee to hold this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:08 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR74 on 3/29/2010 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/TIA 3/29/2010 1:20:00 PM SCR74

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 2807 Kailua Kona, HI
Phone: 808-324-4624
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2010

Comments:

Please oppose SCR 74 and SR 30, which urges the US Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to the States for ratification. These resolutions are completely unnecessary and actually threaten longstanding rules meant to protect and empower minors.

Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution; the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and educate their children as they see fit.

The language of the PRA could erode existing Hawaii State laws that seek to protect and empower minors in need.

I urge you to oppose these Parental Rights Amendment(s) (SCR 74 and SR 30).

Mahalo. I look forward to your reply.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Melinda Wood [mwood17@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 6:00 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SCR 74 and SR 30--oppose

I strongly oppose these resolutions to affirm the Parental Rights Amendment and encourage its ratification. The rights of parents are already covered by the 14th Amendment of the Constitution and have been repeatedly upheld by the Supreme Court. The youth of Hawaii need many things; these resolutions are not among them.

Melinda Wood
1505 Alexander St. #604
Honolulu 96822