



February 01, 2011

FROM: Nanci Kreidman, MA  
Domestic Violence Action Center

TO: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Committee Chair  
Rep: Jo Jordan, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 1477 Opposed**  
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 03, 2011, 9:00am, Conf. Rm 329

Aloha and good morning. Please accept this testimony in opposition to HB 1477.

There exists currently a robust effort to develop a Family Justice Center with funds raised from various federal and state sources. An executive committee, a steering committee, and four working groups are in place to explore the efficiency, timing, location and operations for a Family Justice Center.

The founders of the first FJC and the national Family Justice Center Alliance have been providing technical assistance to the efforts underway in Hawaii.

This bill appears to be redundant and strains already slim resources for serving the community.

Thank you for giving consideration to existing efforts and holding HB 1477.

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The Honorable John Mizuno  
House Human Services Committee  
Twenty-sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawai'i

February 2, 2011

**RE: HB 1477 – OPPOSE**

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 9 am, Room 329

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and members of the House Committee on Human Services, the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence respectfully submits the following testimony opposing HB1477. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to ensure the safety and protection of women in intimate relationships by providing training and education, coordinating domestic violence prevention and intervention services, affecting public policy, and establishing coordinated and consistent procedures and actions by the civil and criminal justice systems in Hawaii.

While we are supportive of initiatives to coordinate and make services more integrated for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and human trafficking, HB1477 is duplicative of existing efforts. HB1477 calls for relevant state and county agencies and local nonprofit service providers to engage in a strategic planning process to identify services for a Family Justice Center. The Hawaii Department of the Attorney General secured federal funding for the planning and implementation process of a Family Justice Center(s) in Oahu and has coordinated a Study Tour and Community Assessment and the crafting of a strategic plan for the successful launch and operation of the Family Justice Center.

Domestic violence programs and shelters have worked hard over the last two years to ensure that the planning and implementation process includes community collaboration and a victim-centered approach. Initiating a new planning process will cause confusion and divert already diminishing resources of survivors, law enforcement leaders, and community based organizations who have committed valuable time to the planning process coordinated by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

We are encouraged by the bill's intent and look forward to combining efforts with Department of Human Services to create a victim-centered, culturally appropriate and holistic Family Justice Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:

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