



LATE Testimony

P.O. Box 23055 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96823

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR179/HR155 relating to Parental Rights

Monday, March 28, 2011

Hearing of Human Services Committee
Chair Rep. John Mizuno,
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

Aloha Chairman Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Family Coalition stands in strong support of HCR179 and HR155.

There is a culture war raging around us. Family breakdown and moral decay are placing our children at risk...and, since the well-being of children is paramount to the well-being of society, the breakdown of the family structure is putting our whole society in grave danger.

The best way to stop this downward trend is to reinforce the most critical element of a proper family, its leadership — the parents. When parents lead well, families become strong and everyone benefits – the children, the extended family, the community, the entire society.

Studies repeatedly show that children are safest and develop best in families with love and guidance provided by their parents. Studies also show that when the role of the parents is diminished, interfered with or removed, it causes great injury to the child and, by extension, to the society as a whole.

It is therefore in the best interest of society to restore, reinforce and safeguard the parents' rights and freedom to determine the upbringing and education of their children. These historic parental rights need to be protected.

HCR179 and HR155 would help ensure through a parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution, that the critical structure of authority and responsibility of parents is affirmed and guaranteed. HCR179 and HR155 would urge members of the United States Congress to pass the parental rights amendment and submit it to the states for ratification. Please support these two measures by passing them.

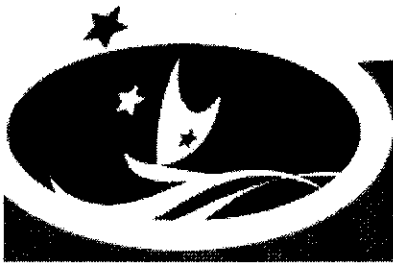
Mahalo nui loa,

Leon Siu
Director
Hawaii Family Coalition

From: Jeanne Ohta [jyohta@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 4:27 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Testimony Monday 9:00 am
Attachments: HDWC HCR 179 HR 155 PRA.doc

LATE Testimony

Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair, Hawaii State Democratic Women's Caucus Committee on Human Services
March 28, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
HCR 179/HR 155
20 copies.



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus 1050 Ala Moana Blvd #D-26, Honolulu, HI 96814 Email: hidemocraticwomenscaucus@yahoo.com

March 25, 2011

To: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair and
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair

Re: HCR 179/ HR 155 Relating to Parental Rights
Hearing: Monday, March 28, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG OPPOSITION

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong opposition to HCR 179 and HR 155 which seek to undo the reproductive and privacy rights of minors which are currently protected by many of the laws of the State of Hawai'i including the Minors' Right to Consent to Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care. The Parental Rights Amendment is overly broad and unnecessary.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus strongly opposes any erosion of the rights of minors who seek reproductive health care. Any barrier to acquiring reproductive health care will endanger the health of Hawai'i's young women and girls.

Current law (HRS §577 A and D) 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. Requiring parental approval may make it impossible for these young women and girls to receive needed medical treatment.

Minors over the age of 14 may also 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 parental rights amendment may endanger this protection for some of our most vulnerable youth.

There are many reasons why a young woman or girl cannot or would not seek parental consent. There is the embarrassment or fear of seeking parental consent, and for a few who may be a victim of abuse, incest or rape, parental consent might be denied. Any delay in seeking medical treatment could be tragic.

We respectfully request that these resolutions be held. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:01 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rbusse@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HCR179 testimony from ACOG Hawaii.pdf

**LATE
Testimony**

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raydeen Busse, MD
Organization: American Congress of OB-GYN, HI Section
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rbusse@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

March 28, 2011
Monday
9:00 AM
Conference Room 329

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Raydeen Busse, MD, Chair
Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, Vice Chair
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section

Re: HCR 179: AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THE PARENTAL
RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Human Services Committee Members:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Hawaii Section, opposes HCR 179, which affirms the Parental Rights Amendment and urges members of Congress to propose and ratify the Parental Rights Amendment.

HCR 179 appears to be sufficiently vague and generalized to possibly override the progress that Hawaii has made in providing medical care to our teenaged patients. Currently, Hawaii teens are able to consent on their own to obtaining contraception, sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and treatment, and pregnancy care depending on age.

In our experience, although we encourage our teenaged patients to discuss these issues with their parents, many teens refuse to do so. Some are too embarrassed to discuss these sensitive issues with their parents, and others are afraid of verbal abuse or even physical abuse and being kicked out of their home to live on the street. If the Parental Rights Amendment becomes law, it appears that this would be vague enough to undo the progress Hawaii has made in providing medical care to teens, which would lead to either delayed or no: contraceptive care (increasing teen pregnancies), pregnancy care and STD treatment with potentially disastrous consequences to the particular teen involved, and to the community and public health.

Hawaii ACOG strongly advocates for the best women's health care, including care for our teen patients, and therefore opposes HCR 179. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:52 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: paigeemail@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HR155. Support with Amendment..doc

**LATE
Testimony**

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paige Calahan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: paigeemail@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
In support with amendment to exempt DV.

To: hustestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: HCR179/HR155 to be heard Monday, 03/28/11, at 9:00am in Room 329

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Human Services Committee Members

FROM: Paige Calahan
DV Survivor and Advocate
PO Box 1380
Puunene, HI 96784
808-281-8505

DATE: 03/28/11

RE: Please amend to exclude DV: HCR179/HR155. Support with Amendment.

Please exempt DV cases from this bill. While the intent of the measure appears to be a good thing it can be abused.

Where domestic violence is present, this proposal reads differently. When DV is recognized and often when it is not the parental right out powers the child's right to safety. Children have no civil rights and this needs to change. Until it does children are chattel and subject to inappropriate application of parental rights. A child's right to safety should always supercede parental rights and an adult that abuses a child or another adult should not have full on parental rights.

A dog off its leash has more rights than a child. Dogs are abused and children are abused, usually under the misapplication of a parental right. Please amend this bill to allow exemption for DV victims and children.

Thank you,

Paige Calahan
Domestic Violence Survivor and mother of a child being abused under a misapplied parental right.

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:53 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: paigeemail@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HR155. Support with Amendment..doc

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paige Calahan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: paigeemail@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
Please amend to exclude DV: HCR179/HR155. Support with Amendment.

To: hustestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: HCR179/HR155 to be heard Monday, 03/28/11, at 9:00am in Room 329

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Human Services Committee Members

FROM: Paige Calahan
DV Survivor and Advocate
PO Box 1380
Puunene, HI 96784
808-281-8505

DATE: 03/28/11

RE: Please amend to exclude DV: HCR179/HR155. Support with Amendment.

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A dog off its leash has more rights than a child. Dogs are abused and children are abused, usually under the misapplication of a parental right. Please amend this bill to allow exemption for DV victims and children.

Thank you,

Paige Calahan
Domestic Violence Survivor and mother of a child being abused under a misapplied parental right.

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:54 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: greetings@cheung.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rina Cheung
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: greetings@cheung.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
I strongly support hcr 179.
Parental rights must remain to the parents.
Much Aloha!

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:55 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: greetings@cheung.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rina Cheung
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: greetings@cheung.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:
I strongly support hr 155.
Parental rights must remain to the parents.
Much Aloha!

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 8:30 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: shinelikeastar215@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: ParentalRightsTestimony.docx

**LATE
Testimony**

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Gracie Cockett
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shinelikeastar215@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

March 28, 2011

9:00AM

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 179, RELATING TO
PARENTAL RIGHTS

TO THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE MIZUNO, CHAIR, REPRESENTATIVE
JORDAN, VICE-CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Aloha, my name is Gracie Cockett and I am a 16 year old resident of Hawaii Kai. I am in strong support of HCR 179, parental rights, and *Ohana*.

I am of part Hawaiian heritage and through the years as I have been taught about my Hawaiian heritage, history, and culture, one of the first and most prominent things I have learned about is the importance of *Ohana*. How we must protect it, honor it, and be so very thankful for it. In this land, in the native Hawaiian culture, and in our state today, *Ohana* has always been and will continue to be integral to our society. One of the most essential aspects of *Ohana* is the parents and the role they have in the upbringing of their children. We should continue to honor and protect that in our state today.

In my own life, my parents have been, and I know will continue to be, so instrumental in helping me grow into adulthood.

As I'm learning from experience, even though I don't always agree with them or want to listen them, I'm learning that they *usually* are right, especially with their advice about how to handle friend troubles, insane amounts of schoolwork, and how to handle "life" in general.

The reasoning my parents have for their discipline of me and allowing or disallowing me to do certain things is not because they want to repress me as an individual or keep me from having any fun. They parent the way they do because they love me, want the best for me, and generally know more about life than I do, because they've been around a little longer than I have. :-)

In the well-known movie Lilo and Stitch, one of the characters states "Ohana means family, and family means no one gets left behind or forgotten." This excellent quote sums up the idea of Ohana quite well. We can't leave anyone behind, especially our parents. Our keiki need their parents. Ohana needs to be protected, which is why I ask that you support HCR 179. Thank you.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 5:03 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: lissa097@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: lissa-testimony parental rights.docx

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lissa Cockett
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lissa097@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Monday, March 28, 2011

9:00 a.m. in Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol.

Hearing on HCR179/HR155 relating to Parental Rights.

Testimony in support of Parental Rights and HCR179/HR155

Aloha Representative's,

I am in support of preserving parental rights in our state. Mahalo much for your thoughtful consideration to pass this resolution as you uphold and make decisions that best support what is best for the "ohana".

The only solution to protect our children and family values is through a Parental Rights Amendment which states that the:

1. The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right
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.
3. No treaty may be adopted nor shall any source of international law be employed to supersede, modify, interpret, or apply to the rights guaranteed by this article.

If we allow people outside of our families to dictate how we raise our children, these keiki's best interests are NOT being represented. Who knows a child better than their parents? We cannot settle or try to enforce a formula on ALL families that is government driven because we all know no family falls into a particular mold or model. There are special needs among children varying in severity including mental, physical and emotional needs that an institution or governmental body does not have insight or a nurturing spirit that parents naturally possess to help empower for growth and confidence which we all know is dire for a child's healthy upbringing. Even the smallest trial can set a child back depending on the season of their life. We must equip parents to come alongside of their children for these seasons and we do this by NOT limiting their rights within their homes.

We see a huge struggle within the public schools in our state and elsewhere because too often a child is expected to fit into a specified, predetermined mold and then required to "perform" a certain way within the educational system. More and more children and young adults are given labels because they don't meet the "standards". As this is occurring children are losing confidence, a desire to thrive because they don't measure up. Really? Is this what we are to be doing to ensure a fantastic future for our children and the generations to come? Before our very eyes we are breaking down the children of our day by trying to squeeze them into what is convenient and affordable for our economy etc. We see the school struggle in our state more than

most so what are we going to do about it? We as a state must address the roots of the problems versus limiting rights of parents who are the key to helping their children succeed.

Children have always needed love, clear boundaries, positive nurturing and a safe environment. The more we settle for political correctness and believe that children should have more rights than their parents the more we will see "ohana's" fall apart. The less love, respect and parental nurturing the more children go astray. How often do we see in studies that as families share a meal each day together the stronger and happier that family unit is? The family is a strong institution that needs laws passed to preserve it, the family needs laws that encourage family bonding versus less parental rights. We need to stand-up for "family" in every sense and do all that we can to empower parents so that they can be successful in raising their children to be outstanding citizens. We need to look hard and deep at the current mounting problems within the state and strive diligently to correct these issues that have presently have a great impact on our keiki.

Please support the parental rights resolution so that our state can continue to carry on and celebrate that which is so beautiful and prominent in our state, the celebration of the strong family foundation. Hawaii, I believe carries a strong family annointing that has been passed down from generations as the "ohana" has always been a powerful part of this culture. Let us not take this for granted and help us by standing on the front lines to preserve it.

Imua for our ohana and support this parental rights resolution!

Mahalo nui loa,

Mrs. Lissa Cockett
Oahu

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:36 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rowena.ednilao@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rowena Ednilao
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rowena.ednilao@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Parents have the right to raise and educate their children as they see fit. I support the Parental Rights Amendment that will assure this basic right remains part of American values.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 10:13 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jediknightzekkaina@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HCR179-HR155_3-28-11_HUS_JFuchikami.doc

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jennifer Fuchikami
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jediknightzekkaina@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Monday, March 28, 2011
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 179 AND
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING
MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THE
PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR, THE HONORABLE JO JORDAN,
VICE CHAIR, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jennifer Fuchikami and I am a twenty year old college student. I am in strong support of HCR 179 and HR 155, 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 see 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 the text of HCR 179 and HR 155 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 more than the most well-intentioned stranger, they [parents] need to be the ones making decisions related to their children instead of that “outsider looking in.”

Some concern over this resolution relates to unfit parents. I realize that I was (and still am) blessed to have wonderful parents. And even though I did not always agree with every single rule or decision they made concerning me or my siblings, I knew that they were doing what they thought was best for us, or that I would see the basis of their reasoning when I was older, since they had a greater wealth of experience in life than I did. However, I understand and acknowledge that this is not the case in every family. Would the Parental Rights Amendment protect parents who abuse or harm their children? The answer is in lines 7 – 9 on page two of these resolutions which quote the proposed Parental Rights Amendment introduced into Congress by Representative Hoekstra of Michigan: “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 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. Because of this and as a potential future parent, I support these resolutions.

I thank the committees for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and respectfully ask you to adopt HCR 179 and HR 155.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 4:04 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tahiri.veila@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HCR179&HR155_Laura_Fuchikami_Testimony.pdf

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Laura Fuchikami
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tahiri.veila@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Monday, March 28, 2011
9:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON HCR 179 AND HR 155 – 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 JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, JO JORDAN, VICE-CHAIR, AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Laura Fuchikami, and I am a 14 year old freshman in high school. I am in strong support of HCR 179 and HR 155, which would give parents the fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of their children. I am in support of this resolution, because currently, under the United States Constitution, parents' rights are 'implied' rights. There is nothing in writing which would protect their rights from the courts, or anyone, interpreting it however they wish. The role of the parent is to protect the child. Here in Hawaii, family is important, and we should stand up and protect what is important to us. I would like to thank you for your time and for this opportunity to express my support on this very important matter! And I would like to leave you with this last question. Are you going to stand up and show that Hawaii cares about family?

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 10:58 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: carol@mikegabbard.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Parental Rights Amend testimony.docx

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Carol Gabbard
Organization: Aloha Parenting Project
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: carol@mikegabbard.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

To: Chair John Mizuno, Human Services Committee
From: Carol Gabbard, Aloha Parenting Project
RE: HCR 179/HR 155 Affirming support for the Parental Rights Amendment to the US Constitution
Date: March 28, 2011

Chair Mizuno and committee members, my name is Carol Gabbard and I am speaking in favor of these resolutions and urge you to pass them, sending a message to Congress of our state's support for the Parental Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

In years past, people and the government respected and understood the parent's rights and responsibilities to raise their children as they saw fit. That respect and understanding has gradually been eroded to the point that an amendment to the Constitution is the only avenue left to insure that parents will continue to have the final say on their children's upbringing.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty, if passed in Congress, will further erode parent's rights to raise their kids. Even though the US is only one of two countries who haven't adopted this treaty, there is good reason. Ours is the only country which holds international treaties supreme over our state's laws. And virtually all law on children and parents is state law. Our laws are subservient to whatever treaties we adopt. The tenets in this treaty will undermine parent's ability to discipline and raise their kids as they know best, and allow government bureaucrats to interfere with what they're doing.

My husband and I started an organization in 2007 called "Aloha Parenting Project" which assists parents in their parenting. We understand there are many different ways to raise and discipline (or not) our children and we don't always agree with each other on how to do it. But we do agree that parents who aren't abusive and follow our laws should be allowed to raise their children without interference from people authorized by the government. Raising children isn't an easy task. Please don't make it more difficult. I strongly urge you to pass the resolutions that support the Parental Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:34 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: janetmgrace@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet M. Grace
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: janetmgrace@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Dear members of the committee,
I am in strong support of HR155.
Parents, not government should be the primary authority figures over their children's lives.
Government should help parents through codifying laws that strengthen not breakdown the family unit.
Mahalo.

sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:30 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: janetmgrace@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet M. Grace
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: janetmgrace@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Dear members of the committee,
I am strongly in support of HCR 179 parental rights and the reality that parents are the only ones having authority to guide and articulate their children's lives.
Government is designed to protect and help strengthen families.
Mahalo.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 12:00 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: volleyballgurl@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Submitted PRA Testimony 2011.doc

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Halley Hobson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: volleyballgurl@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF HUMAN SERVICES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

March 28th, 2011

9:00 A.M

TESTIMONY ON THE HOUSE RESOLUTION HCR 179, AFFIRMING THE
PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION,
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.
TO THE HONORABLE , CHAIR, REPRESENTATIVE MIZUNO and
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Halley Hobson. I am a 17year-old resident of Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I am in support of this resolution. This resolution affirms a proposed amendment to the U.S Constitution stating that Parents have the fundamental liberty to direct the upbringing and education of their own children, without extending those rights to child abusers, unless the government makes a compelling interest. (Section 2)

In addition, this resolution 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 -- this has never happened for our small but great state before in our history, so we should be decisive and act quickly to protect our keiki by protecting parental rights explicitly in our U.S Constitution.

Line (6) of the Resolution states, “Our nation has historically relied first and foremost on parents to meet the real and continuation need of their own children.” We can see in the U.S Supreme Court case 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 as an

enduring American tradition.

Yet in line (20) the U.S Supreme Court Case of Troxel vs. Granville in 2000 ignited the erosion of parental rights. The majority decision, lead by Judge Scalia, proclaimed, “Parental rights are not explicit in the constitution therefore parents have no fundamental rights or history of those rights whatsoever.

First of all, I believe no government, regardless of how well-intentioned it might be, can replace the love and nurture of a parent in the life of child. A parent is willing to brave danger and sacrifice hardship and heartache. A parent cares, not because her children are “ward” for who she is responsible but parents care because they want their son to have the opportunities they never had. Because a parent hopes that her little child will grow up to healthy and strong, and secure. Because they want their children to one day have families of their own with principles and moral values. That is why parental rights must be secured. This is why this fight is the fight of our lifetime and can resolved, if we agree to this resolution and start putting that strong Hawaiian support for this measure.

When I was in second grade, I was sharing with my visiting grandfather what I was learning in school. As I explained it to him, he ask me many questions and I was excited to tell him what I knew, even though I didn’t fully understand it. Later he went to my mother and informed her that I had been taught the beginnings of sex education. My mother was not informed by the school, nor did the school offer any explanations for the teacher’s actions.

My mother and father had a right to inform me about sex at the appropriate time, for me. Yet this opportunity was stripped away from my parents 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. And therefore the rights of parents must be protected and strengthened for the protection of the children.

Next, this Amendment does not extend these parental rights to child abusive parents. (Section 2) The government is able to limit an individual’s rights, as long as the

government first satisfies a heightened burden of proof in specific situations. Having this higher standard in place allows the government to intervene in certain situations like child abuse or neglect, where the state clearly has 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 power.

An MTV poll claimed that 76% of American's children, teens and young adults consider their parents as an essential part of their upbringing and without the parent's decisions on their lives it would be difficult to 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 treated 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, 50, 25 or even 10 years ago. The pressures of every day life have intensified for these innocent children and young adults.

Without the parent's authority to direct the upbringing of their own children, the children would be drowning in the pressures and influences of current 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?

In the young years of Corrie ten Boom, as depicted in her biography, *The Hidden 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 a 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, but I know that my parents have the rights to be my authority in my life, which makes me feel protected and secure. That the life obligations, influences and pressures are not something that I have to carry on as burden in my youth.

The role of parents in the live of their children has, historically, been one f unquestioned value, celebrated in cultures around the world. And the rights that come alone with that responsibility - to direct the upbringing and education of one’s own children - have been consistently honored and upheld.

There is only one way to effectively secure the foundation of parenthood for this generation and the next: a constitutional amendment that explicitly protect the child-parent relationship from unreasonable government intrusion. A constitutional amendment will ensure that the rights of parents to raise their children are honored, so that their children are provided the parental protect and safety.

I thank the committee for taking the time to consider my testimony on this important issue, and I know that by supporting this resolution, the families of Hawaii will benefit.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:34 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: hobsonj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF HUMAN SERVICES.docx

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Janet Hobson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hobsonj001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

LATE
Testimony

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF HUMAN SERVICES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

March 28th, 2011

9:00 A.M

TESTIMONY ON THE HOUSE RESOLUTION HCR 179, AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE , CHAIR, REPRESENTATIVE MIZUNO and
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Aloha,

My name is Janet Hobson; I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am in support of this legislation, the Parental Rights Resolution. HCR 179 and HR 155

Parents have enjoyed the fundamental right to raise their children in the way they see fit since the founding of our nation. We have handed down the traditions of our individual heritage for generations. This is what makes America great. We are individuals with strengths and persevering legacies that are rich and deep. Until recently, good and fit parents raised their children based on these traditions and have not been questioned by government workers, legislative bodies, or international tribunals in doing so.

When fit parents are taking responsibility for their children; directing the child's activities in their education, medical care, and associations, the parent should not be punished.

When good and fit parents' actions for their children are over-ruled by our courts because the judge may not agree with the religion or philosophy, they should not lose their children.

When good parents are rebuffed by child-rearing "experts" such as public educational representatives and medical personnel, and parents are treated as no-nothings, these individuals should not have the authority to come between the child and the parent.

In many situations, that is just what the government is doing and has placed themselves in the position as the ones to look to for the rescuing of the people, and in between the parent and the child in their vital relationship

Last week, my representative, Kymberly Pine arranged for an emergency preparedness education panel to speak to our community. This was after the loss of electricity in the aftermath of a storm and in the middle of the HECO strike. This was planned before the Japan tragedy of earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. Over 500 residents filled the school auditorium. When Ed Teixeira of Civil Defense shared, the bottom line was- we needed to be prepared to take care of ourselves and our neighbors in an emergency. He said, don't wait for the government, they are not coming. He is right. We should take care of ourselves and our neighbors. It is not the responsibility of the government, nor should it be. But this extends to more than emergency situations.

When I was 18 there was a court case in the State of Washington dealing with a family whose daughter was 13 at the time; she was smoking pot and sleeping with her boyfriend and was found out. When her parents found out she was behaving this way, they grounded her. The case was taken to court. The court decided that the punishment handed down by the parents was too much and the 13 year old became a ward of the state. Thirty years later, she testified in front of a congressional panel. She stated, "The state of Washington did me no favors, I was on the street and for many years was adrift." She continued, "What the court should have done was send me home and tell me to obey my parents." It is not the responsibility of the government to raise our children, nor should it be.

This measure would extend to all good and fit parents. If you are a parent or legal guardian, this measure extends to you. If a parent is neglectful or abusive this measure provides for that in the stipulation that the highest and best interest of the child would apply in that situation.

It is not the job of the government to direct the raising of children. In fact it is dangerous. Government in many states and our nation as a whole is in trouble on many levels. Taking on the rearing of children is ill-advised. For those good and fit parents who are taking responsibility for their children, they need to continue to take care of children just as parents have for over two centuries in America, without retribution from the government. This fundamental right needs to be clearly imbedded in the Constitution of the U.S. That is what this measure would do.

Parents provide the stability, nurturing, and guidance to children to ensure they have the ability to take on responsibilities later in life. We must not allow our children to feast on whatever garbage they find on the internet. They must be guided away from internet bullies, predators and pornography. Children need to be directed toward relationships that are not tearing them down, but building them up. Parents are the best ones to do this. But there is another issue that must be dealt with.

Apart from activist courts, medical and educational experts interfering in the relationship between the parent and child there is a treaty the United Nations has put forth. Every nation has ratified this treaty except the United States. Yet, all child conditions have remained the same. Poverty, Prostitution, Child Labor ills, have gotten worse. Ratifying this treaty would mean our state laws especially in family/children courts would be over-ruled. Basically all of the elected representatives are saying, we want the U.N. to come in and do our jobs. We can't do it ourselves. Outlined in the UNCRC is a stipulation for children to have "freedom of association"

this would include joining gangs, logging on to any internet site of any kind; associating with anyone the child pleases, and the parent would have no say in the matter.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. The passage of this resolution in this committee is so important to Hawaii, our families, our children and our future. It is a step in the right direction. Please pass this measure out of committee today.

Thank you so much.

Janet Hobson

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 10:25 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: volleyballgurl@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Richard TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF HUMAN SERVICE1.docx

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ricky Hobson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: volleyballgurl@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

**LATE
Testimony**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

March 28th, 2011

9:00 A.M

TESTIMONY ON THE HOUSE RESOLUTION HCR 179, AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

TO THE HONORABLE , CHAIR, REPRESENTATIVE MIZUNO and MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Richard Hobson; I am a 9th grade student from Ewa Beach. I am in support of HCR 179 and HR 155.

This resolution is of great personal importance to me. What this resolution accomplishes is the affirmation of what has been long held throughout the history of this country and in fact throughout the entire course of human history, that parents have the duty, the responsibility and as it only now has become necessary to be called the right to teach their children well. This issue is of genuine worth, not only in the world, as you cannot have any kind of society without the family relationship, and specifically for the State of Hawaii as we are the one state that gives a higher level of honor to the family, the Ohana. This resolution will affect this great state as a whole, for the better.

With this in mind please now think of the impact this resolution would have on the youth of this state. It is true that what is affirmed as normal will soon become popular. So if you affirm

through this resolution, that it is in fact normal and right for a parent to raise their children to the best of their ability you plant a seed in the minds of the youth of this state of becoming parents. Imagine what the young citizens of this state will do when they learn of what their elected leaders have done by affirming, in essence, the right to parent children. What will happen is that the value and the perception of what being a parent is will, to many, of course not to all, but to many, change. Young men and women will be prompted to address the reality that they will become parents one day. Of course the rest is up to them, but it cannot happen without your support of this resolution.

So, please pass these resolutions out of your committee today as it is vitally important to me and my generation. I, too would like to have children one day, and I will do all that I can to ensure that when I do have children, I can raise them to the best of my ability and not to the opinion of activist courts, international tribunal or my government.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.

Richard Hobson

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:48 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: gfilaban@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gwen Ilaban
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gfilaban@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

I oppose the resolutions HCR 179/HR 155 affirming the Parental Rights Amendment (PRA) and encourage its ratification. I strongly believe that parents play the most important role in raising and guiding their children. However, I 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 basic right of parents to raise and educate their children, as it is their responsibility. The broad language in these resolutions 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.

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, as a community, we should focus on ways to support parents becoming involved in their children's lives.

Let's not undo the reproductive and privacy rights of minors. I encourage you to oppose Resolutions HCR 179/HR 155.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:39 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: akaai2674@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HCR 179 HR 155 custody.docx

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela Kaaihue
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: akaai2674@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

HCR 179/HR 155

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

I believe what this bill is stating is that we need to be more aware of our Parental Rights, and have respect of our Rights as a parent in our United States of America Constitution.

My name is Angela Kaaihue, and I believe this to be true. I am an American Citizen, born in Texas, and raised in Hawaii. I have identical twin girls who were voluntarily placed in Guardianship when they were 8 months. Thinking that it was the right thing to do because I had trusted the 3 Guardians. They became an extended "hanai" family. However, MONEY POWER, & GREED took over, and this "hanai" family soon controlled my kids, made money off them (TITLE IV Assistance), and don't want to give them back. They have bad-mouthed me, and I in return did the same. They have called accused everything that you could say:

"the mother is a druggie", "the mother doesn't care", "she's crazy", "her kid's are afraid of her", "her kid's don't want to see their grandmother, "her kids threw up on the way to the visit", "her kids are sick", "her kids don't want to see her", "the supervised visits are detrimental to the kids," "she writes bad things about us", "we have a restraining order", etc., etc., etc.

These statements have prevented "family reunification". I don't do drugs, I raise my youngest child who is 7 years, and although we are financially independent, we are unable as parents to have my children returned. At the expense of Hawaii Tax Dollars, these guardians continue to receive TITLE IV Federal Funding every month including MedQuest, costing the state hundreds of thousands of dollars providing the Guardians a nice monthly income to live off of while keeping my twin children living in separated households and alienated from their biological family. Dispite the fact that the guardians and their family members have had problems of their own,

including divorce, teen pregnancy, drugs, poverty, criminal charges, they keep my kids isolated from living a higher standard of living.

My twins continue to be separated, one currently living on the mainland, they don't have a relationship with their biological family, and my parental rights as reinforced by the US constitution is violated, there is no regards of family reunification.

Please give them back to their parents, and let us as parents raise them ourselves as our US constitution states. It is "in the best interest of the child" to give my twins an opportunity to live with their parents, to live off of TITLE IV Funding, and so that my twins may reunite with their biological family, siblings, grandparents, cousins, etc, for my twins to NOT live in poverty. We are suppose to be following the US constitution.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Aloha,

Angela Kaaihue

Other Testimony I have submitted as it relates to my case can be found as testimony for the following bills:

1.

Family Court; Custody; Child Custody Evaluators

Establishes a program in the family court for the registration of child custody evaluators; allows board of family court judges to adopt certification of child custody evaluators.

SUPPORT BILL 958

*****Please read my testimony*****

2.

SUPPORT BILL SB 1291

RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT COURT PROCEEDINGS

Ensures that child protective act hearings in chapter 587A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are consistent with federal Title IV-E provisions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

*****Please read my testimony*****

3.

Support HB1064

RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT COURT PROCEEDINGS.

To ensure that child protective act hearings in chapter 587A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are consistent with federal Title IV-E provisions

TITLE IV-E

LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP-

A DISGUISED FORM OF

FOSTER CARE

*****Please read my testimony*****

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 3:56 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Cc: anakurashige@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Parental Rights.docx

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ana Kurashige
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: anakurashige@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

AND HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

MARCH 28, 2011

9:00 AM

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION NUMBER 155 AND HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 179, RELATING TO PARENTAL RIGHTS
TO THE HONORABLE REP. JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND REP. GILBERT
S.C. KEITH- AGARAN, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Ana Kurashige, a sophomore in high school, and I strongly support
HCR179/HR155.

As a child, I do not always agree with the decisions my parents make at the
moment they make them, however, when I look back I count myself blessed that my
parents' wisdom trumped what I thought was desirable. Ultimately, parents know their
children best and it is their responsibility to make the most fitting decisions concerning
their children. Before we become concerned with the rights of a child, we need to take a
step back and ask ourselves, are children really capable of making decisions that are most
profitable for them? Most often they are not. It is during our years as children when we
can glean understanding and guidance from our parents. Through this, as adults we can
then be properly equipped to make our own decisions. Parents must be able to retain their

right to do what is best for their child. Yes the phrase “rights of a child” may sound pleasant to the ear, but it will lead to unwanted consequences. When it comes down to it, we as kids do not really know much. Choices we think are fit turn out to haunt us later. Many kids later ask themselves, why didn’t I just listen to my parents?

As a future parent, I want to be assured of the freedom to raise up my children as I see fit. Not what they may think is best, and not what the governments sees as fit. As my parents know me best, so I will know my children best. Opposing this bill will not bring freedom; it will only imprison children in regret.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 5:09 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: gaykurashige@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: PRA testimony.docx

**LATE
Testimony**

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Gay Kurashige
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gaykurashige@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
AND HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011
MARCH 28, 2011
9:00 AM

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION NUMBER 155 AND HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 179, RELATING TO PARENTAL RIGHTS
TO THE HONORABLE REP. JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND REP. GILBERT S.C.
KEITH- AGARAN, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

First of all I would like to thank this committee for hearing this resolution. My name is Gay Kurashige and I am writing to ask you to support the Parental Rights Amendment.

Families have and will always be the foundation of our country's strength. Where the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) aids in disintegrating the family unit, the Parental Rights Amendment aims to strengthen. If you are parent, I know you will agree with me that when you had your children you not only accepted the responsibility to raise them as responsible citizens but expected to be able to do so. The Parental Rights Amendment assures us that right without unnecessary intrusion from the government or an international governing body.

I am painfully aware of the problem of child abuse. The Parental Rights Amendment does not take away from the laws that protect children from abusive parents but enables legally fit parents to raise their children as they deem best.

Should America adopt the UNCRC, it will bring unwanted and unforeseen weakening effects on our country's families. America values its constitution and its laws which is why this amendment deserves your serious consideration and research. It should not be casually dismissed as a partisan issue because it applies to all families. I strongly ask support from this committee for this amendment.

Thank you.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:41 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: ltkurashige@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony HCR179 and HR155.doc

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lloyd Kurashige
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ltkurashige@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislature

Hearing on HCR 179 and HR 155

As a parent of three my wife and I take our responsibility to raise our children very seriously. So do the vast majority of citizens throughout our country. It is a great privilege to be able to influence a generation as it has been done for centuries. Our country has prospered over this time primarily through the passing down of values from fathers and mothers to their children.

I believe that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child takes away that God given responsibility parents have to effectively raise their children. It is a parent's job to do that. Not the government's. That is why I am in support of HCR 179 and HR 155.

Our country takes the rule of law very seriously. Violations are met with action while upholding individual rights. That is why I believe in our national sovereignty. We have what we need in our system of justice and should not subject ourselves to laws and treaties of other nations such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. If we ratify this convention it effectively becomes the law of the land in our country. Furthermore once ratified we subject ourselves to whatever changes are made to it by the committee overseeing the convention.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child goes much too far in presupposing that children under the care of their parents know what is best for themselves and should be given the right to make choices regardless of what their parents think is best. Almost all the people I know can relate to how as teens we go through a rebellious period when we think we know it all. When we become adults we realize how wrong we were, how much we did not know and that our parents were right in standing firm in their decisions.

For these reasons I support HCR 179 and HR 155 to affirm that the State of Hawaii supports the Parental Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution and to encourage our U.S. Congress to propose this constitutional amendment to the state for ratification.

Sincerely,

Lloyd T. Kurashige

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:26 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: pamelalichy@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: hr 155 3-28-11.doc

LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pamela Lichy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pamelalichy@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

LATE Testimony

Mr. Chairman and members,

March 26, 2011

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you today. The issue we are facing is of a very serious nature both for now and for future generations. I am in support of a Parental Rights Amendment in order to protect the rights of families to be free of an over reaching government that still struggles to balance it's own house. Allowing the government to make choices for families in the area of parental rights is to surrender a freedom we share, and to surrender any kind of freedom, is to deny members of these United States of America the very liberties that make them great. To see an example of the governments failures , we have only to look at the budget and the mounting debt that it has no idea how to reduce and even resolve. Imagine if the government suddenly wanted control of private and personal household budgets of the average US citizen. A proven track record I must say! In closing, I would like to strongly urge you to pass a Parental Rights Amendment and establish that it is the parent and not the government who has in mind the best interest of the child.

Thank You,
Matthew Tomioka

Matt Tomioka (age 13)
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96734

HCR 179
HR 155