

**LATE**

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Melinda Franklin  
February 28, 2011  
Subj: Testimony **IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB957 SD1** which creates the  
Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee (CFLAC)

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011; 9:20 am.; Room 211, State Capitol

As a family court customer for over a decade, I Strongly Support **SB957 SD1** which creates the  
Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee (CFLAC).

The Hawaii Family Court lacks sunshine and transparency.

Life-altering decisions affecting families are made without hearings. The Hawaii Family Court  
systems support a daisy chain of interconnected relationships between family law attorneys,  
therapists and social workers to maximize their financial gains. This is to the detriment of families.

A Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee would NOT be counter to the doctrine of separation  
of powers. Rather it would give the people, especially families, a voice in government. It would  
promote and preserve the constitutional rights of Hawaii families.

In my own case, custody was changed without a hearing (no transparency or due process). I was  
blocked from contact with my children for 7 years via a "Temporary" Restraining Order (TRO).  
Judge Browning continually postponed hearings to perpetuate the TRO, in cooperation with my  
ex-husband, Kevin Chee, a Honolulu attorney.

My ex-husband's counsel (Everett Cuskaden, Esq.) and therapist (Craig Robinson, PhD) were  
business partners of the guardian ad litem (Kimberly Towler) in a Joint Partnership doing business  
as "*Mediate Hawaii*". My ex-husband was a client of the custody evaluator, Sue Lehrke, PhD.

It took me 10 years, as a pro se party, to overturn the ex parte change of custody in the  
Intermediate Court of Appeals (Case No. 28843, June 19, 2009). The process was financially  
devastating, and nightmarish for my children and me. The family court made secretive decisions,  
similar to systems of third world countries. Hearings did not happen. Judge Browning canceled  
them, eliminating due process. Once the Family Court takes a stance, it becomes intractable.  
Only through the Intermediate Court of Appeals was I able to restore my family and Constitutional  
rights.

Please support, and pass, **SB957 SD1** which creates the Citizen's Family Law Advisory  
Committee (CFLAC).

Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda Franklin (fka Chee)