

**hscadv**  
**HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice-Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB1918 – Comments Only

Hearing Date and Time: Monday, January 30, 2012, 8:30AM

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Good morning Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Jordan, and members of House Committee on Human Services, the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence respectfully submits the following testimony for HB1918. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

The HSCADV takes no position on this bill but offers the following comments:

The problem of domestic violence in the ranks of law enforcement exists at serious levels and deserves careful attention. The rate of domestic violence is estimated to be at least as common as that of the general population and limited research to date indicates the possibility of higher incidence of domestic violence among law enforcement professionals.

Dismissal and disciplinary actions for police officers must be integrated into a broader policy that reflects a continuum of action including: training, early warning and intervention; incident response protocols, victim safety and protection, and post-incident administrative and criminal decisions. These policies must also have a strong monitoring and enforcement mechanism. Without these other components in place, victims may be put in jeopardy for retaliation and escalated abuse.

Thank you for your consideration.