

LATE

Testimony for Family Leave

HB884 (Including Siblings into Family Leave)  
LABOR/FINANCE Committees  
HB884 – LABOR Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB 884 (Inclusion of Siblings in Family Leave). I appreciate your time and attention.

Here in Hawaii, when we speak of family, most assume that family is everyone within one's OHANA. Currently, the family leave requirement allows leave to care for the employee's child, spouse or reciprocal beneficiary, or parent with a serious health condition. Siblings, however, are excluded from "Family Leave."

If we are considering "Domestic Partners" to be added for Family Leave and Funeral Leave, should we not include siblings? After all, it does not matter if the family member is related by blood or became a member of the OHANA by the traditional Hawaiian way, HANAI. They are family.

Please consider; if parents or elders of the family are no longer with us, but there are siblings that need assistance, family members, such as Brothers and Sisters, usually advocate on their behalf. Currently, FUNERAL LEAVE includes siblings (brothers and sisters), therefore, siblings should be included in FAMILY LEAVE. Funeral Leave and Family Leave relate to the same type of circumstance, caring for and advocating for one's OHANA. Siblings should be afforded the same recognition in FAMILY LEAVE as they have in FUNERAL LEAVE.

Thank you and please consider adding siblings to FAMILY LEAVE.

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"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work." - Emile Zola 1840-1902

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