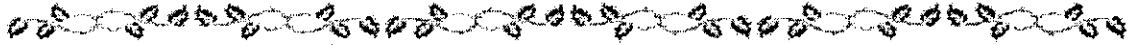


COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 12, 2012

1:45 p.m.

Room 229

SUPPORT FOR HCR 12 - REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered, always being mindful that 6,000 Hawai'i individuals are living behind bars, including the almost 1,800 men who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HCR 12 designates January 22-28 as "Reproductive Rights Awareness Week" to encourage public awareness, conversation, and support for reproductive rights awareness.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this resolution as a matter of public health, gender equity, and human rights.

What are Reproductive Rights?

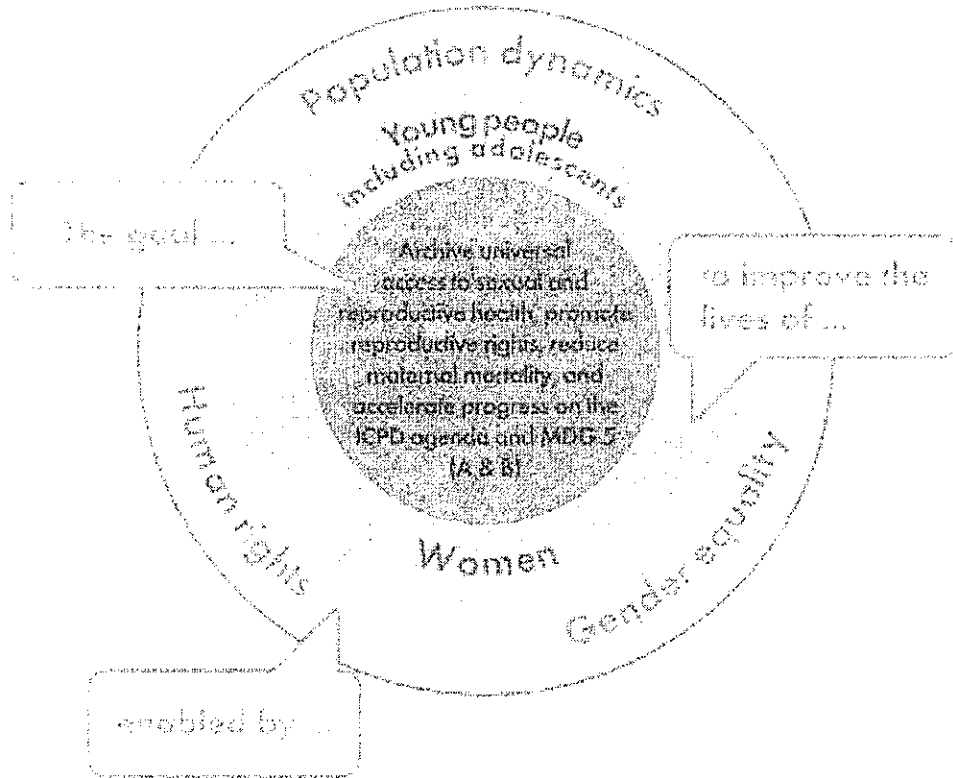
<http://www.unfpa.org/rights/rights.htm>

Attaining the goals of sustainable, equitable development requires that individuals are able to exercise control over their sexual and reproductive lives. This includes the rights to:

- Reproductive health as a component of overall health, throughout the life cycle, for both men and women
- Reproductive decision-making, including voluntary choice in marriage, family formation and determination of the number, timing and spacing of one's children and the right to have access to the information and means needed to exercise voluntary choice
- Equality and equity for men and women, to enable individuals to make free and informed choices in all spheres of life, free from discrimination based on gender
- Sexual and reproductive security, including freedom from sexual violence and coercion, and the right to privacy.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

The work of UNFPA encompasses a wide range of issues, ranging from the most intimate and personal decisions to the impact of those decisions on global population and development trends.



<http://www.unfpa.org/issues/>

Reproductive health in the broadest sense is the very heart of the UNFPA mandate. It is also an issue that lies at the intersection of human rights, gender equality and population dynamics. Lack of access to reproductive health and rights, including the ability to freely choose the number and spacing of births, places a disproportionate burden on two groups in particular: women and young people, especially those who are marginalized by poverty or other circumstances.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports Reproductive Rights Awareness and we believe that ongoing education is vital to building a strong and healthy community and we humbly ask the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

SUPPORT WOMEN’S & FAMILY HEALTH!