

TESTIMONY

HCR12

Measure Title: DESIGNATING JANUARY 22-28, 2012 AS "REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK," TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AWARENESS, CONVERSATION, AND SUPPORT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AWARENESS.

Report Title: Reproductive Rights Awareness

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HTH

Introducer(s): EVANS, BELATTI, BROWER, CHONG, CHOY, COFFMAN, HANOHANO, HERKES, ICHIYAMA, KEITH-AGARAN, C. LEE, M. LEE, LUKE, MARUMOTO, MCKELVEY, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, OSHIRO, RHOADS, SAIKI, SAY, TAKUMI, THIELEN, WOOLEY, YAMASHITA, Souki

HTH
Committee Hearing
04-12-2012

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Support Hawaii
Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
Kama'aina Kids, Inc.
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Behavioral Health
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Kula No Na Poe Hawaii
Lanai Community Health Center
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
The Maui Farm, Inc.
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YouthVision
YWCA of Kauai

April 9, 2012

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 12 DESIGNATING JANUARY 22-28, 2012 AS "REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK," TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AWARENESS, CONVERSATION, AND SUPPORT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AWARENESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 12 Designating January 22-28, 2012 as "Reproductive Rights Awareness Week," to encourage public awareness, conversation, and support for reproductive rights awareness.

Communities benefit when young people have the information, skills, and access to services that enables them to make healthy lifestyle decisions about their sexual health.

Since the week of January 22-28, 2012 has already taken place, HYSN recommends an amendment to designate the 4th week of January of each year as Reproductive Rights Awareness Week.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director

April 12, 2012

**Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Committee On Health**

HCR 12, Designating January 22-28, 2012 as "Reproductive Rights Awareness Week," to encourage public awareness, conversation, and support for reproductive rights awareness.

**Thursday, April 12, 2012
1:45 PM, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

Senator Green, Senator Nishihara, and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address HCR 12.

My name is Megan Noble and I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am testifying in support of HCR 12, to designate January 22-28, as "Reproductive Rights Awareness Week," because it is important for women and men to know women's reproductive health rights.

Recently, there has been media reports about the "War on Women," with political debates between limiting birth control access including outlawing abortion. According to the Guttmacher Institute, in 2011, 1,100 state laws on women's reproductive rights were introduced. This is a scary thought, that there should be some control over women in terms of birth control, abortion, and other reproductive and health issues. I oppose the idea of taking away women's reproductive rights, because it will decrease women's quality of life. Women being able to plan their families and control their own lives, will make for a better quality of life for everyone.

If there is more concentration on bringing awareness to reproductive rights, then more people will understand how women's reproductive rights effects everyone. Majority of voters believe that women's reproductive issues are personal issues that should be dealt with by women and their doctors. Yet, both men and women are capable of being against or in favor of reproductive rights. Building more awareness, will encourage people to make decisions that will improve their quality of life.

Overall, I am in favor of HCR 12, because having an annual Reproductive Health Awareness Week, can empower people to plan and prepare for their health.

Thank you for your attention.

Megan Noble
Master of Social Work Candidate
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
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