



*The Judiciary, State of Hawaii*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services**

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 1:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by

Sabrina S. McKenna

Deputy Chief Judge / Senior Family court Judge

Family Court of the First Circuit

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 1364, Relating to Domestic Violence.

**Purpose:** Establishes a domestic violence task force to make recommendations to address domestic violence in Hawaii and then report these recommendations to the Legislature.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary takes no position of Senate Bill No. 1364.

However, we respectfully request that should the Legislature establish this task force, the Family Court not be included on a task force that will be proposing legislation due to concerns relating to the separation of powers (Page.1, Section 1, subsection (b)(6), line 16). However, we would be happy to provide any information or feedback requested by the Task Force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

To: Senator Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
From: JoAnn Farnsworth, Private Consultant & Facilitator for the State Domestic Violence Prevention Plan Oversight Body Implementation Team  
Date: Thursday February 10, 2011 at 1:45PM  
Conference Room 016

**Subject: SB:1364 Establishes a domestic violence task force to make recommendations to address domestic violence in Hawaii and then report to the legislature.**

I am writing in opposition to this bill. This bill is a duplication of existing efforts. I am a consultant in private practice and for the last three years have been hired to facilitate the work of the State Domestic Violence Prevention Plan Oversight Body Implementation Team and track implementation of the Plan Performance Measures. The Plan was requested by the Legislature in 2005 and adopted by the Department of Health to oversee its implementation in 2007.

At that time a public/private policy level Oversight Body was established to review the progress of implementation and update the plan as necessary. There are currently 13 members, that body is attached to this testimony. The Oversight Body meets minimally quarterly and more frequently as needed. This is a hard working, committed group of individuals who see the success of the plan as their responsibility; they are active on subcommittees and consider themselves barrier busters and system improvers. They have developed an annual work plan that is tied to the outcome indicators of the State Plan.

The Oversight Body's efforts are matched at the community level by Domestic Violence Community Task Forces; one on Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii Island, Lanai, Molokai and two on Maui. Their work is guided by the Plan Performance measures.

If there are recommendations for improvement I would ask that those suggestions be made using the infrastructure currently in place, not create a parallel system.

The Plan Performance Measures Year End Report for 2010 is available for your review by contacting the Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence or myself at [jfarnsworth@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jfarnsworth@hawaii.rr.com).

NAVIGATING A COURSE FOR PEACE

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HSCADV Staff:  
Veronica Geronimo  
Interim Executive Director

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Director, Victim Witness Kokua Services  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney

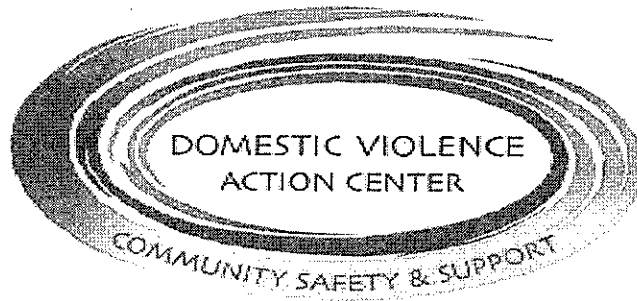
**Resources to the Committee:**

Mary Hyslop  
Neighborhood Place of Puna  
Executive Director

Data Sub Committee  
Becky Shor, *MPH*  
CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow  
Family Health Services Division  
Hawaii Department of Health

Maureen Kiehm  
Program Specialist  
First Judicial Circuit Court

County Task Force Coordination  
Ana Maring, Consultant



February 09, 2011

FROM: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.  
Domestic Violence Action Center

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

Ref: **SB 1364 – Opposed**  
Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011, 1:45pm, Conf. Rm #016

Aloha,

We submit this testimony for your consideration, as the need for ongoing discussion about various community interventions as it impacts families is always a good idea. The Domestic Violence Action Center is interested in continuing to participate in community discourse about this grave and costly problem.

There exists at the current time an Oahu Domestic Violence Task Force, supported by the Department of Health, as part of its work to implement a strategic plan, Navigating a Course for Peace. The Task Force is comprised of relevant and diverse participants with experience working in the system.

The system can always benefit from improvement, and it seems wise to remember that the system we have built is the result of many years of engagement, "tinkering", and adjustment based on wisdom and input from professionals and constituency of the courts. The formulation of another Task Force would be redundant, and therefore we respectfully oppose the Bill before the Committee today.

Thank you.

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# HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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

Re: SB1364 - Oppose

Hearing Date: 02-10-11, 1:45PM in conference room 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV, the Coalition) respectfully submits the following testimony opposing SB1364. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to ensure the safety and protection of women in intimate relationships by providing training and education, coordinating domestic violence prevention and intervention services, affecting public policy, and establishing coordinated and consistent procedures and actions by the civil and criminal justice systems in Hawaii.

While we are supportive of initiatives to address domestic violence, SB1364 is duplicative of existing efforts. SB1364 calls for a domestic violence task force to make recommendations to address domestic violence in Hawaii and then report to the legislature. In 2007, the Domestic Violence Strategic Plan for the State of Hawaii was developed as directed by the 2005 State Legislature in SB1419, SD1. Each of the island task forces and the Oversight Body for the Strategic Plan were established with the goal of creating a system of support that is community-based, coordinated, culturally appropriate, and accessible to all families.

We are now in year three of implementation of this plan, and have had the consistent participation and commitment of survivors, department heads, legislators, city councilmembers, and community and organizational leaders in the current infrastructure.

Instead of initiating a new task force, we ask for the necessary investment and support to fully implement the strategic plan and address the following needs:

- Increase community awareness and education about domestic violence
- Ensure that victims are safe and receive support services and
- Assure that batterers are accountable for their behavior and learn skills to become non-violent.

We welcome the participation of legislators and high-level cabinet officials who will join us in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information contact: Veronika Geronimo, phone: 832-9316 ext. 104,  
executivedirector@hscadv.org

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:57 AM  
**To:** Ann Freed  
**Cc:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: SB 1364In support

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Chair Chun Oakland  
Vice Chair Ihara  
Committee Memebers

SB 1364 RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.  
Establishes a domestic violence task force to make recommendations to address domestic violence in Hawaii and then report to the legislature.

IN SUPPORT

Sadly domestic violence is once again on the rise in Hawai'i. I hope that the creation of a task force will have quick recommendations as to how to stem the tide of this pernicious social disease. I fully support this measure

Ann Freed  
Mililani, HI

808-623-5676  
[annfreed@hotmail.com](mailto:annfreed@hotmail.com)