

SB 2164

Measure Title: RELATING TO FALSE REPORTING TO AUTHORITIES.
Report Title: False Reporting; Law Enforcement; Child Welfare Services; Judicial Authorities
Description: Broadens the definition of the offense of false reporting to include child welfare services and judicial authorities.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: HMS, JDL
Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND (BR)

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 6:51 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
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Testimony for HMS 2/14/2012 1:25:00 PM SB2164

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
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Organization: Individual
E-mail: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:

Good Afternoon Senators ~

As it stands, false reporting to law enforcement is already a misdemeanor under HRS 710-1015 so extending this to cover CPS/CWS and judicial authorities only stands to reason (since NO ONE should be falsely reporting anything for any reason, right?) Telling the truth is a moral imperative that shouldn't need much reminding about in adulthood yet in a society that is becoming increasingly amoral and atheistic reminders are not only needed, but necessary.

When a false report of any kind is filed (whether that be police, fire, paramedic, CPS, etc.) one of the biggest and most immediate consequences is the instant waste of public resources (time, energy, effort) that go into responding to a threat that doesn't exist. Considering the state of our economy, false reporting is more of an expensive waste now more than ever but beyond that, professionals responding to a false report means that they are not there or available to respond to the REAL emergencies that may come in. In cases of emergency response, lives can actually be lost and in too many instances, CWS workers are emergency response workers.

The penalties and consequences for false reporting can be severe and long-lasting and while it's only common sense not to lie, bear false witness or false report, these behaviors are inherent in domestic violence abusers who use such tactics to evade detection or to deflect attention away from their actions / the consequences of their actions. Unfortunately, falsely reporting to CPS or to judicial officers related to family court proceedings is commonplace precisely because such false reporting is not presently criminalized; SB2164 would change that.

False reporting and the mis/perception of the rate of false reporting also causes substantial harm to domestic violence victim-survivors who are met with increased scrutiny and doubt when disclosing the abuse they're subjected to. The MISperception is that false allegations are raised "all the time" as a custody tactic when this is simply not true. Moreover, when someone makes a bogus claim of domestic violence to "get a leg up" in other family court matters, that person is directly making matters worse for true victims of DV. Willfully and knowingly setting someone up like that should be punished, don't you think? At the moment, however, false reporting is seen as nothing more than bad manners and while it can certainly be "counted" as Contempt of Court, it's apparently not worth the trouble of pursuing so it's shrugged off with no bearing or consequence when it should be taken seriously for the fraud that it is.

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

LATE

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