



Committee: Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Opposition to S.B. 216,
Relating to Minors

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in opposition to S.B. 921, Relating to Crime, which would create the misdemeanor offense of inadequate supervision of a minor.

This measure is vague and overbroad, and it infringes on the privacy of the family. This law could be used to punish parents who are doing all the right things, yet still find themselves with a rebellious child. Rather than punishing parents – with all the attendant costs of putting a parent through the criminal justice system and giving already stressed parents a *criminal record* – we encourage the Legislature to focus on proactive initiatives to support parents and children.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gluck
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: carleton rehr [libelle201@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 5:41 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SB 216

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senate Committee on Human Service

FROM: Barbara Carlson, 84-221 Holt Street, Makaha

I am encouraging support for SB 216 regarding holding parents, guardians, etc. responsible for minor children.

I believe that many of the burglaries we are experiencing in our area are committed by minors. We have reason to believe that some adults are actually using the children to commit these crimes simply because they are not prosecuted as adults. The adults then pay the minors and then take possession of the items stolen.

By letting adults know that they will be held accountable, we can start to stem this tide. The ripple effect of starting here can have far-reaching consequences. Case in point is the Broken Window Syndrome explained in Malcolm Gladwell's best selling book "Tipping Point." He explains how seemingly simple enforcement of rules regarding the New York subway system led to major change.

LET'S START SOMEWHERE!

LET'S START HERE!

Mahalo