

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2588 on 3/29/2012 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2012 4:30:00 PM SB2588

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dara Carlin  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com Submitted on: 3/29/2012

**Comments:**

TO: Chair Oshiro  
Vice Chair Lee  
House Finance Committee members

FROM: Adult Survivor of Child Sexual Abuse through proxy Dara Carlin, M.A.  
881 Akiu Place  
Kailua, HI 96734

DATE: Mar 29, 2012 Rm 308

Re: Strong Support for SB2588 Relating To Limitations of Actions and would like to see if the contents of SB1716 (which I understood died) could be added to this bill as a separate section.

Honorable Representatives,

I apologize for this by proxy testimony but having the courage to speak the truth is very tough because you fear what the outcome is going to look like. I don't feel strong enough yet to stand before you but I do feel strongly enough about this bill to present my testimony if only to send Ms. Carlin forward to be my representative. I'm not HAPPY AT ALL having to hang my dirty laundry out in public like this but this is that important to me and I know other victims would agree...

What happened at Penn State and the MN Archdiocese recently is a perfect example of why we need SB2588. If you noticed the victims' disclosures about their abuse came out way later, YEARS later, then it actually happened and after one victim stepped forward so did another and another and another. I would like to see the whole statue of limitations eliminated all together and to ask to be able to take actions against a perpetrator that was not quite an adult (say 15 -17 not yet an adult but should have known better) when the crime took place. Child sexual abuse and incest are silent crimes that are HUMILATING, DEGRADING, AND INTIMIDATING for the victims (things that I'm feeling right now as I'm writing this) and it's made all the worse when the abuser is someone from your own family.

I am also angry, enraged really, about the fact that I have to DEFEND why we need this bill that should already exist. Because this bill has not been put into law, my abuser has been able to get away with all he's done to me and he knows he's untouchable! Can you imagine how that feels to a victim!?

As a victim I had a mother who didn't care and who lead me to believe (and later told me) that the sexual abuse was my fault. I didn't know if my father knew about it but I feared that speaking up (as a teenager thou adulthood) would have ruined his reputation since he was

very well known and loved in the community. I also loved my father and didn't want to hurt him with the truth so I accepted and lived with the attitude that "it was my fault". I've struggled my entire life with the consequences of my silence and abuse until the day my abuser moved in next door to me and the trigger was pulled. I became mad at everything, had nightmares mixed with insomnia every night and decades after the abuse, I was recommended to psychologists. They tried their best to "change my mindset" that was "conflicting with my reality" but no matter how hard I tried, it wasn't working for me and I only developed more symptoms. The symptoms then became physical and because my father passed, I finally "broke my silence" but doing so cost me my whole family. When I protested my abuser's proximity to me, I was told I have no recourse and this is the anger that's given me the strength to speak out.

~~I believe we as a community are sending way too many mixed messages as to whether incest and sexual abuse are crimes or not.~~ The passage of time affords the abuser a window to manipulate, threaten or charm victims into submission until the statute of limitations are up. These abusers are very good at their game and as a victim you have great fears for your survival. Coming forward is not as easy as one might think: what if no one believes me? Suppose disclosing your abuse ends up destroying your relationships with your family? So you've been abused AND you lose your family support for it while the abuser is welcomed at family functions? And to move in next door?

There should be some kind of fairness or justice for victims. It's extremely hurtful and embarrassing to the victim when others don't take this crime SERIOUSLY. It's made worse by judgmental put downs, total dismissal of your feeling, giving you no validity to your experience. People questioning my sanity when they should be questioning my abuser, and having no recourse for crimes committed against me.

Please don't let what's happened to me happen to any other victim of child sexual abuse. Please give us an avenue to recoup expenses spent on my mental health recovery and/nor in my case, the extra expense of dental work due to grinding my teeth down to the core as well as financing a move away from my abuser if SB2588 doesn't pass. My husband and I spent all of our money to build our home that my abuser decided after the fact to move in next door. If not in justice, just in the name of FAIRNESS - shouldn't he have to move for the crimes he committed against me rather than my husband and me having to walk away from the home we built?

Please give victims the option for justice when they're ready to ask for it, don't leave abusers with the power to wag a statute of limitations in a victim's face as they're able to do now.