
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:53 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dr.la@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB957 on 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

**LATE
Testimony**

Testimony for HUS 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM SB957

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Laurette DeMandel-Schaller, MFT, Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dr.la@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

I have worked with Senator Chun Oakland on the family court working group, as a representative of the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (HAMFT), for many years now. My private practice work includes Psychological and Court Services.

I strongly support SB957 SD1. An advisory committee such as this would be an asset to the family courts. Representing a broad group of stakeholders, this advisory committee can perform functions, requested by the family court, that the family court would otherwise be unable to staff. In addition, this advisory group allows for a process by which the public's unmet family court legal needs are identified and addressed.

LATE Testimony

To: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services
From: Melinda Franklin (formerly Chee)

Subj: Testimony **IN STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB957** which creates the
Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee (CFLAC)
Hearing: March 14, 2001 9:00am Conference Room 329 State Capitol

As a family court customer for over a decade, I **Strongly Support SB957** which creates the
Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee (CFLAC).

The Hawaii Family Court lacks sunshine and transparency. Life-altering decisions affecting families are made without hearings. The Hawaii Family Court systems support a daisy chain of interconnected relationships between family law judges, attorneys, therapists, guardian ad litem and social workers who are motivated by power and greed. They strive to promote their careers and make money at Hawaii family expense. These participants refer to themselves as "*The Players*" (a moniker supplied by Marvin Acklin, PhD, a self-promoting family law therapist).

A Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee would NOT be counter to the doctrine of separation of powers, as the Judiciary alleges. Rather it would give the people, especially families, a voice in government. It would promote and preserve the constitutional rights of Hawaii families. It is compatible with checks and balances, a United States system of constitutional government which guards against absolute power by any one branch of government.

In my own case, custody was changed without a hearing (no transparency or due process). I was blocked from contact with my children for 7 years via a "Temporary" Restraining Order (TRO). Judge Mark Browning continually postponed hearings to perpetuate the TRO, in cooperation with my ex-husband, Kevin Chee, a Honolulu attorney.

My ex-husband's counsel (Everett Cuskaden, Esq.) and therapist (Craig Robinson, PhD) were business partners of the guardian ad litem (Kimberly Towler) in a Joint Partnership doing business as "*Mediate Hawaii*". My ex-husband was a client of the custody evaluator, Sue Lehrke, PhD. My case illustrates mechanisms of Hawaii Family Court daisy chain relationships. Similar instances abound.

It took me 10 years, as a pro se party, to overturn the ex parte change of custody in the Intermediate Court of Appeals (Case No. 28843, June 19, 2009). For my children and me, the process was financially devastating, and nightmarish.

The family court operates by secretive "*Star Chamber Proceedings*".¹ In my case, hearings did not happen. Judge Mark Browning canceled them repeatedly, eliminating due process. Once the Family Court takes a stance, it becomes intractable. Only through the Intermediate Court of Appeals was I able to restore my family and Constitutional rights.

Please support, and pass, **SB957** which creates the Citizen's Family Law Advisory Committee (CFLAC).

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Franklin (fka Chee)

1Star Chamber Proceedings: any judicial or quasi-judicial action, trial, or hearing which so grossly violates standards of "due process" that a party appearing in the proceedings (hearing or trial) is denied a fair hearing.

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:44 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: crslethem@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB957 on 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM SB957

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Lethem
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: crslethem@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

I strongly support SB957 SD1. A method by which the public can participate in Family Court matters and issues is desperately needed. The one group of people almost totally cut out of any meaningful collaboration regarding Family Court are the customers of family court -- mothers and fathers, husbands and wives!! This then negatively affects their children.

- Expenses associated with the CFLAC would be minimal.
- Submitting vouchers for travel from the Neighbor Island is already being done.
- Committee would use of existing facilities.
- Time would be the primary contribution.

THIS FAMILY LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD HELP FAMILY COURT WITH THEIR NEEDS!

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 4:45 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: adamtm@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SB957 on 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM SB957

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Marzec
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: adamtm@lava.net
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

I strongly support SB957 SD1. A method by which the public can participate in Family Court matters and issues is desperately needed. The one group of people almost totally cut out of any meaningful collaboration regarding Family Court are the customers of family court -- mothers and fathers, husbands and wives!! That is why an open, sunshined process for such participation is needed.

Other states have similar family court advisory committees.

SB957 was developed collaboratively by many Family Court stakeholders, via the SCR52 Task Force and subsequent working group process.

Your consideration is very appreciated.

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:57 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: LeslieMason65@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB957 on 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE
Testimony

Testimony for HUS 3/14/2011 9:00:00 AM SB957

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leslie Mason
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: LeslieMason65@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

As a mother who has witnessed the problems with family court custody processes and a Mental Health Professional with a Masters in psychology, I fully support SB957 SD1. There has to be a way to involve the public and the courts in addressing problems of mutual interest. This advisory committee, similar to what other states have, is very necessary.