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**Cc:** [crslethem@hotmail.com](mailto:crslethem@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1137 on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2013 8:58:31 AM

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/24/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Lethem	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Custody Evaluation for the purpose of determining the better parent is an absurdity. The determination of whether a parent is capable and willing to provide a clean, healthy and secure environment; whether a parent can provide nutritious food, clean clothing and has a modicum of parenting skills is what should be the primary concern. Each parent should be evaluated on their own. If both parents meet this litmus test then custody should be awarded to ensure both parents have frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with their children. We must realize and respect the important roles that both parents play in the emotional and developmental growth of our children. Best Regards, Chris Lethem

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1137 on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2013 6:54:45 AM



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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
courtney Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1137 on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2013 9:47:42 AM

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Imonti	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2013 7:44:53 AM

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Horn	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/24/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawaii State Legislature, 2013  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
March 25, 2013, 9:15 am, Rm 211

TO: Sen. David Ige, WAM Committee Chair  
Sen. Kidani, WAM Committee Vice Chair

RE: HB 1137, HD1, SD1 -Clarifies the appointment and qualifications for child custody evaluators.

**I strongly support HB 1137, HD1, SD1** because it will help to increase the quality of service provided by Child Custody Evaluators (CCE's). Child custody evaluations seem to have become a rather lucrative industry for the child custody evaluators, however, the quality of the evaluations can range from mediocre to high quality. Paying a higher price for a child custody evaluation does not insure a higher quality investigation. For example, individuals who have been through a child custody evaluation complain that the CCE met with him or her only once and for a very short period of time while the other parent met with the CCE on a number of occasions; or the CCE spent very little or no time with the child.

The child custody evaluation should reflect an objective and comprehensive review of the child's "biopsychosocial" environment that, at a minimum, should include investigating the child's physical and mental health, the important relationships in the child's life, the child's school and leisure environment and any cultural and religious influences in the child's life.

I strongly support the section in HB 1137, HD1, SD1 that will require the Judiciary to establish a complaint/review process. Inadequate CCE investigations can cause serious harm to a child's future so establishing a legitimate complaint process will empower the participants of the child custody evaluation process to have the authority to question the CCE's quality of work. Additionally, allowing the participants to file complaints against CCE's who provide questionable quality of work will aid in standardizing the quality of service provided in the custody evaluation industry.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Laurie Hirohata, MSW, MEd

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Andrews	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Zerbe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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HB1137

Submitted on: 3/24/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Marzec	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Ige, I strongly support HB1137 SD1 because it significantly improves the procedures involved in child custody evaluations. We have to get these custody evaluations right and it starts with having and knowing who the qualified professionals are that can properly do such evaluations. The SD1 amendment language sensitively addressed and mitigated concerns from prior testimony, including the Judiciary comments. Money is not needed to implement the requirements of this bill and required resources to maintain a web-based list of custody evaluators is minimal compared to the benefit of not having to address such questions individually. The broad consensus for the value of this bill highlights the importance of improving an area so critical for our keiki. Mahalo! Tom Marzec

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