



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

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### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

TIME: 10:05 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

### SUPPORT FOR HB 197– Judiciary Funds for Domestic Violence Services

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition fully supports HB197 which appropriates funds for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

We are in strong support of the Judiciary's budget request to partially restore POS amounts, which would go towards providing domestic violence intervention services in the state. Domestic violence services fall under "Juvenile and Family Services," Section 2.3 - Domestic Violence Intervention Services. This funding supports victim support groups, victim advocacy, legal assistance, legal representation, crisis and help lines, visitation centers, programs to support children who experience the trauma of domestic violence, and batterer intervention programs and services.

**Judiciary funding for domestic violence services in fiscal year 2013 is 36% less than it was in FY2009**, even with rainy day funds in FY11 and FY12. The impact of the funding reductions has hampered programs' ability to provide timely and responsive services and have had the following impact on programs that support domestic violence victims across the state:

- Eliminated programs such as parenting groups, programs for children who experience domestic violence, counseling for survivors, adult and teen offenders, and support to the families of the teens.
- Fewer survivors receiving specialized domestic violence lawyering in divorce, protection orders, paternity and post decree Family Court cases Q Decreased the number of hours the crisis line is open
- Decreased the number of crisis walk-ins, forcing victim/survivors to have to return for services on another day
- Decreased the number of groups available to victim/survivors
- Reduced families visits from weekly to once or twice per month
- Closed visitation centers on Leeward Oahu, which has resulted in increasing the waitlist for visitation services in other visitation sites
- Delayed group intervention for non—English speaking offenders and victim/survivors, especially for those who speak Chuukese and/or Marshallese
- Created waiting lists for offenders ordered domestic violence intervention services. There continues to be great need for these services.

On one day in 2012, 411 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups in Hawai'i. Unfortunately, on the very same day, there were **69 unmet requests** for services in our state due to a critical shortage of funds and staff (National Network to End Domestic Violence Census 2012).

These funding shortages have created greater and greater vulnerabilities in the network of services which survivors need for their safety, escape, and self-sufficiency. For this reason, families and survivors of domestic violence deserve access to community resources that assist in their safety and recovery. Therefore it is urgent that the Committee to pass HB197. Please. **Restore the safety net for our wahine, our keiki and our ohana.**

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed  
Co-Chair Women's Coalition  
95-227 Waikalani Dr. A403  
Mililani, HI 96789  
808-623-5676

# LATE TESTIMONY

## **HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER**

**1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

*Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928*

*E-mail: [info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org](mailto:info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org) Website: [www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)*

### **THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2013**

#### **Committee on Judiciary and Labor Testimony in Support of H.B. 197, HD2 Relating to The Judiciary**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 10:05 A.M.  
Conference Room 016**

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center testifies in strong support of raising the budget ceiling of the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund, as requested by the Judiciary.

In 2011 the Legislature passed Act 180 which increased the filing fee in certain court cases so that more funds were deposited into the indigent legal assistance fund to support various legal services programs. The legislature felt that an increase in the surcharge on filing fees was a reasonable means to provide critical funding to already under funded legal services programs.

Needless to say, the obvious intent was to actually have these increased funds go to these organizations. However, for the funds to be expended to meet the needs of indigent persons, the budget ceiling for the fund must be raised.

For that reason, we view the requested increase in the budget ceiling as the next logical step to properly effectuate the intent of the legislature in passing Act 180. It will also provide necessary funding to organizations that serve a vital interest in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

hscadv

**HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, March 19, @ 10:05a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

RE: HB197 – STRONG SUPPORT

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The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters. Our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

We support HB197 which appropriates funds for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015. We are in strong support of the Judiciary's budget request to partially restore POS amounts, which would go towards providing domestic violence intervention services in the state. Domestic violence services fall under "Juvenile and Family Services," Section 2.3 - Domestic Violence Intervention Services. This funding supports victim support groups, victim advocacy, legal assistance, legal representation, crisis and helplines, visitation centers, programs to support children who experience the trauma of domestic violence, and batterer intervention programs and services.

Judiciary funding for domestic violence services in fiscal year 2013 is 36% less than it was in FY2009, even with rainy day funds in FY11 and FY12. The impact of the funding reductions has hampered programs' ability to provide timely and responsive services and have had the following impact on programs that support domestic violence victims across the state:

- Eliminated programs such as parenting groups, programs for children who experience domestic violence, counseling for survivors, adult and teen offenders, and support to the families of the teens.
- Fewer survivors receiving specialized domestic violence lawyering in divorce, protection orders, paternity and post decree Family Court cases
- Decreased the number of hours the crisis line is open;
- Decreased the number of crisis walk-ins, forcing victim/survivors to have to return for services on another day;

- Decreased the number of groups available to victim/survivors;
- Reduced families visits from weekly to once or twice per month,
- Closed visitation centers on Leeward Oahu, which has resulted in increasing the waitlist for visitation services in other visitation sites,
- Delayed group intervention for non-English speaking offenders and victim/survivors, especially for those who speak Chuukese and/or Marshallese, and
- Created waiting lists for offenders ordered domestic violence intervention services.

There continues to be great need for these services. On one day in 2012, 411 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups in Hawaii. Unfortunately, on the very same day, there were 69 unmet requests for services in our state due to a critical shortage of funds and staff (National Network to End Domestic Violence Census 2012). These funding shortages have created greater and greater vulnerabilities in the network of services which survivors need for their safety, escape, and self-sufficiency.

For this reason, families and survivors of domestic violence deserve access to community resources that assist in their safety and recovery. Therefore we urge the Committee to pass HB197. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
810 Richards Street, Suite 960  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
PH: (808) 832-9316