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## HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To: Chair Mele Carroll  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, February 05, 2013; 9:30 am

Place: Conference Room 329

RE: HB401 – SUPPORT

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The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence writes in support of HB401, which appropriates funds for the social services programs formerly funded under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

The nine emergency shelters statewide and domestic violence programs continue to see an increased demand for their services while funding has decreased. On one day in 2012, 176 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs. Unfortunately, on the very same day, programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff that kept them from assisting 69 victims in need of services. When fewer community resources are available, victims become more isolated, risking their safety and recovery. Funding shortages have created greater and greater vulnerabilities in the network of services survivors need for their safety, escape, and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for recognizing the dire need of providing domestic violence survivors protection and services so that they are safe, supported and self-sufficient. We respectfully request that the committee pass HB401.

Thank you for your consideration.

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