



Office of the Public Defender State of Hawaii



Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawaii to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

March 25, 2013 10:30 a.m.

H.B. No. 587, H.D. 1: RELATING TO THE PENAL CODE

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

This measure proposes to expand the definition of "family and household member" to include "dating relationship". This changes the original intent of this statute which was meant to encompass those that were significantly related to one another or had cohabitated to now include dating partners. This can mean to include those that are involved in the most intimate of relationships, as well as, those individuals that have a minimal romantic relationship. This begs the question, when does a romantic relationship actually begin, when one professes one's love, when both profess their love, when each says they like each other and want to see where this goes? There is no need to change the special nature of family or household members to broaden the definition when there are ample statutes, such as assault and harassment to deal with other classes of relationships with the same sentencing options available to any judge.

The Office of the Public Defender opposes this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this measure.

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 2:55 PM
To: JDL Testimony
Cc: randy@kauaichamber.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB587 on Mar 25, 2013 10:30AM

HB587

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 25, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randall Francisco | Kauai Chamber of Commerce | Support | No |

Comments: In support of amendment to include persons in a dating relationship as family or household members

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