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HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To: Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Dee Morikawa
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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 06, 2013, 10:05 am

Place: Conference Room 329

RE: HB895 – SUPPORT

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence writes in support of HB895. The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is 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.

HB895 raises the marriage license fee and increases deposits to the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 346-7.5; the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 601-3.6; and to the domestic violence and sexual assault special fund established under section 321-1.3. These special funds support the maintenance and enhancement of critical domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault intervention programs within the Department of Human Services, the Judiciary, and Department of Health.

Furthermore, these special funds support local organizations working to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect in Hawai'i. It is estimated that for every \$1 spent on violence and abuse prevention, \$9 is saved on intervention and treatment services. While crisis intervention is a necessary response to domestic violence, it alone cannot address the complex dynamics of this social problem.

We respectfully request that the committee pass HB895.

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THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

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DATE: February 6, 2013

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: H.B. 895
Relating to Marriage License Fees

Good afternoon Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the House Committee on Health; and Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the House Committee on Human Services. My name is Adriana Ramelli and I am the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), a program of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health.

SATC strongly supports H.B. 895 to raise the application fee for marriage licenses in order to increase deposits to the domestic violence and sexual assault special fund administered by the Department of Health (DOH).

Sexual violence remains a major public health issue here in Hawai'i. According to the Attorney General's report, *Crime in Hawai'i*, there were 353 reported forcible rapes in 2011.¹ However, sexual violence is severely underreported. The Department of Justice concluded that between 2006-2010 sixty-five percent (65%) of rapes and sexual assaults went unreported.²

This bill will raise additional funds to help the DOH continue to provide prevention and education services, which are key elements for ending violence. Through public awareness efforts, young people, in particular, can learn to reduce their risk and understand the warning signs of violence, especially interpersonal violence.

We urge you to pass H.B. 895. Domestic and sexual violence are serious problems with far-reaching consequences and adequate funding is necessary to help prevent their occurrence.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

¹ State of Hawai'i, Attorney General, Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division, Research & Statistics Branch, *Crime in Hawai'i: 2011*, at 4 (Nov. 2012), available at http://hawaii.gov/ag/cpja/main/rs/crimeinhawaii/CIH2011/Crime_in_Hawaii_2011.pdf

² U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Victimizations Not Reported to the Police, 2006-2010 National Crime Victimization Survey*, at 4, available at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/vnrp0610.pdf>.



TO: Chair Belatti
Vice Chair Morikawa
Members of the Committee on Health

Chair Carroll
Vice Chair Kobayashi
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

HB. 895

Good morning. We would like to lend our support to HB 895 as the measure increases the amount of funds to be deposited into the child and spouse abuse accounts in each of the departments and branches of government that has such a Special Account.

The fees have not been raised in many years, and of course, the use of funds deposited into these accounts lends support to many worthy community and department programs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to lend our support to HB 895