

SB 1359

Measure Title: RELATING TO NON-VIOLENCE AND PEACE AWARENESS MONTH.
Report Title: Non-violence and Peace Awareness Month; October
Description: Designates October as Non-violence and Peace Awareness month.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: HMS/TEC
Introducer(s): GALUTERIA

MarshaRose Joyner
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition-Hawaii
mrjoy@hawaii.rr.com * www.mlk-hawaii.com

TESTIMONY

Bills- SB 1359 and HB 1433
"Non-violence and Peace awareness Month" in Hawaii
February 7, 2013 at 2:30 pm
Room # 016

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland or
Senator Brickwood Galuteria

Vice-Chair House Representative John Mizuno

Aloha,

On behalf of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition-Hawaii, I write in **SUPPORT** of bills SB 1359 & HB1433.

"The month of October shall be known and designated as "Non-violence and Peace Awareness Month", to Promote Public awareness of violence as a significant social, Public Health, and criminal justice problem."

While we support the intention of the bills; we find that they are negative in language and shortsighted in scope. The word **PEACE** is not mentioned in the body of the bill. The definition of **non-violence** is positive. And public awareness should be taught and demonstrated at every level. If we are going to designate the month of October to non-violence awareness, the root of non-violence should be the focus of the bill.

The month of October was selected by the United Nations because it is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhian ahimsa is a philosophy and strategy for social change that rejects the use of violence, but at the same time sees nonviolent action (also called civil resistance) as an alternative to passive acceptance of oppression.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the modern-day Civil Rights Movement's use of non-violence was not passive. Nonviolent acts of protest and persuasion are symbolic actions performed by a group of people to show their support or disapproval of something. The goal of this kind of action is to bring public awareness to an issue, persuade or influence a particular group of people, or to facilitate future nonviolent action.

Yes, violence is a "significant social, Public Health, and criminal justice problem", however unless we are taught how to use non-violence as a way of life, then we have missed a golden opportunity.

We would like the bill to be amended so that it better represents the title of the bill –"Nonviolence and Peace".

Mahalo
MarshaRose Joyner
Past President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition-Hawaii



TO: Chair Chun Oaklandi
Vice Chair Green
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Chair Wakai
Vice Chair Nishihara
Members of the Committee on Technology and Arts

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

SB. 1359

Aloha! October is currently designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Efforts are made every year to improve the community's understanding of domestic violence through media, events, and coordination of public and private agencies. Of course, it is a good thing for the community to make a commitment to non-violence and peace.

The designation of October as Non-violence and Peace Awareness Month could fracture efforts or lend confusion to the planning and execution of community wide events. It is not clear from the Bill what the goal for this designation is or where responsibility would lie for bringing community attention to the importance of non-violence and peace.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our perspective on SB 1359.



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP • 1727 PALI HIGHWAY • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • PH: 522-0200 • FAX: 522-0209

February 5, 2013

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St., Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland:

I am writing to show **support** for Bill 1359 and HB 1433 which is for establishing October as "Non-violence and Peace Awareness Month" in Hawaii. I am convinced that we do need to nurture within people's hearts and minds that non-violent means is the way to resolve conflict. In many cultures and societies around the world, we too quickly resort to violent action to resolve our differences or obtain a desired result which causes so many lives to be hurt or lost. As humankind, we should consciously make the effort to raise ourselves to the next level of non-violence.

However, I would like to make mention that Hawaii as a State has previously designated September 21st as (recommended by a bill introduced by, then, Rep. Riki Karamatsu, Bill HB 345) "Peace Day" in Hawaii with Former Governor Linda Lingle having signed Act 23 on April 18, 2007. This statement by no means lessens the significance or importance attached to non-violence. Truly, may Hawaii with its Aloha Spirit guiding us, become a beckoning light and voice for peace throughout the world. Thank you for considering my thoughts. Also, thank you to our Legislators who are conscious of the importance of world peace and harmony.

Respectfully,

Eric Matsumoto,
Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



Inclusive Orthodox Church

Province of Hawai'i

Stephen of Hawai'i, B.D.M.C., D.D.
Orthodox Bishop of Hawai'i

February 7, 2013

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Testimony on Behalf of
Senate Bill 1359
RELATING TO NON-VIOLENCE AND PEACE AWARENESS MONTH

To the Chairs and Members of the
Committee on Human Services
and
Committee on Technology and the Arts

Dear Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Galateria, and Members of the Committees,

Aloha mai kākou.

The Inclusive Orthodox Church **supports** Senate Bill 1359. The recognition of a month of non-violence and peace awareness is fully consonant with the Christian teachings of our church.

We believe that it is a Christian's active duty to seek and work for social justice. This is the Way that Jesus admonished his followers to follow. In fact, actions of social justice are the only basis on which peace may be achieved within our community. Social justice is best achieved through non-violent means. We espouse life, liberty, and justice for all, which – unfortunately – rarely occurs in our society. That is why establishing a month focused on non-violence and peace is so essential.

No one embodies this principle more than Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Mahatma. We recommend that the month of October be dedicated to non-violence and peace awareness and, by way of amendment, that October second be recognized as Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday. There is long-standing tradition that, on the Mahatma's birthday, the Gandhi International Institute for Peace and Indian-American Friendship Council holds a peace ceremony at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Kapolani Park. This event can continue to be the cornerstone around which efforts at bringing awareness to how non-violent change is the only way to peace are brought to the current and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1359.

Respectfully,

Bishop Stephen Randolph Sykes
Orthodox Bishop of Hawai'i

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland

February 5, 2013

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S, Beretania St., Room 226

Honolulu, HI 96813

Respected Senator Chun Oakland:

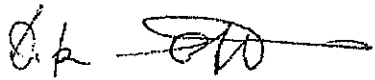
Subject: SB 1359 and HB 1433

I am writing to show my **univocal support** for Bills 1359 and HB 1433 to establish October as "Nonviolence and Peace Awareness Month" in Hawaii.

Hawaii, the Aloha State should be the pioneer State to show this unique gesture of nonviolence, which is the answer to today's tumultuous world. The United Nations declared Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on October 2 as an International Day of Nonviolence in June 2007.

Thank you and other legislators for considering my request to support the Bill.

Respectfully:



Dipankar Sengupta

Founding President of LOTUS,

a non-profit cultural organization

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1359 on Feb 7, 2013 14:30PM
Date: Saturday, February 02, 2013 12:13:23 PM

SB1359

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HMS/TEC on Feb 7, 2013 14:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As a hispanic in Hawai'i, I strongly support having the nonviolence and peace awareness month alongside our Hispanic Heritage month (October.)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: Patriciablair@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1359 on Feb 7, 2013 14:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:46:55 PM

SB1359

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HMS/TEC on Feb 7, 2013 14:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Peace and non-violence as a focus for a month is a beginning to year round focus. The world desparately needs this focus. Please pass.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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RICHARD J. HENNESSEY, LCSW
3029 Lowrey Ave, H3215
Honolulu, HI 96822
808 372-1219

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 6, 2013

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

I am writing to you in **support** of bills SB 1359 and HB 1433 to declare the month of October as "Non-violence and Peace awareness Month" in Hawaii. I also support the adding of Mahatma Gandhi's name to the bill. I believe this is most appropriate as in 2007 the United Nations declared Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, October 2, as an "International Day of Non-violence".

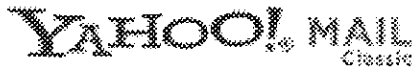
As a firm believer that the way to peace in the world is through the practice of inner peace, something that Gandhi indeed embodied, cultivating a peace consciousness becomes imperative. Moreover, given the growing violence in our society I believe that state legislatures can play a significant role in doing this and working toward a decrease in the violence.

It would be a great honor for Hawaii to be the first state in the nation to pass such a special bill to raise awareness toward nonviolence and peace in our communities. Ideally, this will lead to other states taking similar initiatives and, in the end, to our nation playing a greater role for peace in the world. As Hawaii has an amazing mix of peoples from East and West that strive to live in harmony with the spirit of "aloha," it is most fitting that our state show the way. Let each of us be encouraged by our legislature to come from a place of peace in dealing with our sisters and brothers.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Hennessey, LCSW

**SB 1359 Hearing and HB 1433**

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 11:21 PM

From: "David Hirano" <david-hirano@centralunionchurch.org>
To: "senchunoakland@capitol.hawaii.gov" <senchunoakland@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: "sengaluteria@capitol.hawaii.gov" <sengaluteria@capitol.hawaii.gov>, "repmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov" <repmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Dear Senator Chun:

While I am currently Interim Pastor of Central Union Church in Honolulu, I am writing as an individual and not for Central Union Church. In our polity, I can only speak for the church on political matters only when the church has a position on a specific matter.

At the same time, the United Church of Christ at its General Synod Declared that it is a Justice and Peace Church. So I write as a member of the United Church of Christ. At one time I was the head of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, which today is known as the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

I would support SB 1359 and HB1433 establishing October as Non-Violence and Peace Awareness Month. The Bills would be significant given the rise of gun violence in the United States and would cause the citizens of Hawaii to find ways to promote Non-violence and peace in our Community. I would also like to request that these Bills honor Mahatma Gandhi, an international symbol of non-violence and peace.

Mahalo hui loa.

Sincerely,

David Y. Hirano

Senators:

February Sixth.2013

Please note the importance of your passing House Bill 1359 and publicize its Passage by newspaper, radio and television Hawaii' leadership role once again in demonstrating the importance of a nonviolent approach to resolving conflicts. Our recent visits by the Dahlia Lama, Bishop Desmond Tutu and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Ang San Kiu who spent many years in prison to defend peace in her country all pointed out the unique role Hawaii offers in showing peace among diverse people. We and our tourists showed our belief by forming a 2400 man-woman-child peace circle at Kapioajni PaRk

I would be most happy to participate in any and all activities that are slated during the declared Peace Month as I do throughout the year

I speak from first hand knowledge as someone who has been working with our soldiers at Tripler Army Hospital during my service as Staff Psychologist. Teaching our men and women to kill to reach peace is a big mistake My son who at 6 witnesses the world Trade Center first hand will always seek to understands other ways for people to express and live for peaceful ways to solve disputes. I am on the Board of the Gandhi International Peace Center here in Hawaii I have recently come back at age 69 yrs. to the UH Matsunaga program where I hope that the mediator and negotiator role I am learning will allow others to follow in a route to peace that brings respect rather than violence.

Anthony J. Marsella, Ph.D. A Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii.

Show by your actions that you choose peace over war, freedom over oppression, voice over silence, service over self-interest, respect over advantage, courage over fear, cooperation over competition, action over passivity, diversity over uniformity, and justice over all.

Do what is right and demanded by those who elected you pass this bill without any delay. It is your people's mandate. For future individuals and families that learn and prohibit such ways as killing children, burning buildings, shooting at our safe places. Do what is right.

Mahalo

Barbara Melamed

Barbara Melamed,Ph.D ABPP.

Professor of Psychology UH