

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition
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Amendment to
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 kakou,

Because we are engaged in creating the opportunity for people to participate in the transformation of peoples' lives and of life itself, we, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition-Hawaii, offer this amendment to Bills SB 1359 and HB 1433 - "Non-violence and Peace awareness Month" in Hawaii

Reasons for amendment:

The language of the bill as it currently reads states –“awareness of violence”. It does not address Non-violence or Peace. The language should be changed to include:

“The month of October shall be known and designated as "Non-violence and Peace Awareness Month", to Promote Public awareness of how the advocacy of peace as becoming a significant social, Public Health, and criminal justice solution can and will create more peace and harmony amongst our citizenry and positively affect our communities.”

We cannot hope to solve any problem using the same energy that created the problem. We must change the language and the ideas of violence vs. non-violence and Peace without Justice.

This bill gives us an opportunity to begin the change. For which we are all very grateful.

“Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The first condition of non-violence is justice all around, in every department of life”. M.K. Gandhi

The difference between Non-Violence and Violence:

- Non-Violence - 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.
- The definition of non-violence is positive; it is a way of life. Public awareness of non-violence should be taught and demonstrated at every level.
 - Violence may be defined as doing harm to another, whether physical or mental.
 - Violence and abuse are best understood as a pattern of behavior intended to establish power and maintain control over family, household members, intimate partners, colleagues or groups. The roots

Violence, however, is preventable.

Evidence shows strong relationships between levels of violence and potentially modifiable factors such as concentrated poverty, income and gender inequality, the harmful use of alcohol & drugs, and the absence of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and parents.

Examples of scientifically credible strategies to prevent violence include:

- nurse home-visiting and parenting education to prevent child maltreatment;
- life skills training for children ages 6–18 years;
- School-based programs to address gender norms and attitudes; as well as learning mediation.
- reducing alcohol & drug availability and misuse through enactment and enforcement of liquor licensing laws,
- reducing access to guns and knives; and
- promoting gender equality by, for instance,
- supporting the economic empowerment of women

It is obvious that we are not doing enough to remedy the issue of violence - Violence in any and every form. This bill, if worded correctly, gives us an opportunity to involve the entire community. Scientific research shows that strategies addressing the underlying causes of violence can be effective in preventing violence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in his letter from the Birmingham Jail, 1963 "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Violence is any physical, emotional, verbal, institutional, structural or spiritual behavior, attitude, policy or condition that diminishes, dominates or destroys ourselves and others.

Language for the amendment:

The month of October will be designated as Non-Violence and Peace Awareness Month:

- Promote the month of October as Non-Violence and Peace Awareness as a Month of national and community examination and one to reflect upon the principles Non-Violence, Social Change through the nonviolent resolution of conflict, dedication to global peace, social justice, economic security, and the non-violence approach to living as espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.;
- Encourage and facilitate meetings, assemblies, classes, films, and any other meaningful activities during, but not limited to, the month of October;
- Involve business, government, labor, religious, ethnic, educational, community service groups, and all segments of the civilian and military population in the planning and execution of activities; and
- To promote all the elements of the Peace and Non-violence, educate, plan and act, as an integral part of everyday living and activity.

Structural/Cultural/Direct Violence

Cultural and structural violence cause direct violence. Direct violence reinforces structural and cultural violence. Direct violence, physical and/or verbal, is visible as behaviour. But this action does not come out of nowhere; its roots are cultural and structural.



Direct Violence

Violence can take many forms. In its classic form, it involves the use of physical force, like killing or torture, rape and sexual assault, and beatings. Verbal violence, such as humiliation or put downs, is also becoming more widely recognised as violence. Peace and conflict studies scholar Johan Galtung describes direct violence as the 'avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs or life which makes it impossible or difficult for people to meet their needs or achieve their full potential. Threat to use force is also recognised as violence.'

Cultural Violence

Cultural violence is the prevailing attitudes and beliefs that we have been taught since childhood and that surround us in daily life about the power and necessity of violence. Consider the telling of history which glorifies, records and reports wars and military victories rather than people's nonviolent rebellions or the triumphs of connections and collaboration. Nearly all cultures recognise that killing a person is murder, but killing tens, hundreds or thousands during a declared conflict is called 'war'.

Structural Violence

Structural violence exists when some groups, classes, genders, nationalities, etc are assumed to have, and in fact do have, more access to goods, resources, and opportunities than other groups, classes, genders, nationalities, etc, and this unequal advantage is built into the very social, political and economic systems that govern societies, states and the world. These tendencies may be overt such as Apartheid or more subtle such as traditions or tendency to award some groups privileges over another.

Violence

In sum, violence is any physical, emotional, verbal, institutional, structural or spiritual behaviour, attitude, policy or condition that diminishes, dominates or destroys ourselves and others.



LATE

IOLANI PEACE INSTITUTE A TRIBUTE TO DR. BERIT MEXIA

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony on Behalf of Senate Bill 1359 and House Bill 1433
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

The `Iolani Peace Institute of Honolulu, HI would like to express its support for Senate Bill 1359 and House Bill 1433. We feel very strongly that recognizing the month of October as a month of Non-Violence and Peace Awareness would be a tremendous step forward for Hawaii and the world. Such a designation is perfectly aligned with the mission of the `Iolani Peace Institute.

The `Iolani Peace Institute was founded in January of 2004 with the three-part mission of promoting inner peace, peace with other people, and peace with the environment. We were a part of the effort to designate October 2nd as International Day of Non-violence in honor of Mahatma Gandhi. Thus, we are fully behind the effort to expand that to an entire month dedicated to the same values that made the designation for October 2nd appropriate. In fact, we would like to see Mahatma Gandhi's name added to the bills under consideration.

Thank you for your efforts to turn this meaningful idea into a reality and for the chance given to us to provide testimony in support of it.

Peace and aloha,

`Iolani Peace Institute

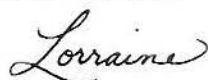
Peter J. Greenhill, Co-Director; JoAnn Stepien, Co-Director; Committee Members Alan Suemori, John Bickel, Jan Motoshige, Cheryl Wong, Diane Martinson-Koyama, Jane Heimerdinger, Kimi Frith, Allison Ishii, David Caldwell, Kirk Uejio, Cate Waidyatilleka

LATE

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair of the Committee on Human Services,
And Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair of the Committee on Technology and the Arts,

I am writing in support of HB 1433 and SB 1359, which together designate October, the month in which Gandhi's birthday and the International Day of Non-Violence are celebrated on October 2, as Non-Violence and Peace Awareness Month in Hawaii. Thank you to Senator Brickwood Galuteria, and Representatives Jon Mizuno, Mele Carroll, Faye Hanohano, Bertrand Kobayashi, and Angus McKelvey for introducing these bills, as well as to Dr. Raj Kumar, the founder and president of the Gandhi International Institute for Peace, who has worked tirelessly for this. I hope the resultant measure will help us to appreciate the peace we enjoy for the most part here, to bring awareness not only of its value, but to focus attention and possible help, as well, to those of us whose lives have none, or who are threatened with violence.

With Aloha,



Lorraine Sakaguchi
P.O. Box 1097
Honolulu, HI 96808



Center for Global Nonkilling

"Everyone can be A Center for Global Nonkilling"

LATE

January 5, 2013

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chair, Human Services Committee
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

Since the nonprofit Center for Global Nonkilling supports measures to strengthen public commitment to the values of nonviolence and nonkilling as companions to Aloha in Hawaii, we support the intent of S.B. 1359 to make October a Month of Nonviolence and Peace. It will extend the UN International Day of Nonviolence on Gandhi's birthday October 2.

The October Month of Nonviolence and Peace will carry forward Hawaii Peace Day adopted in concert with the UN International Day of Peace on September 21 and will anticipate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday in January.

With Aloha,

Glenn D. Paige
Chair, Governing Council

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