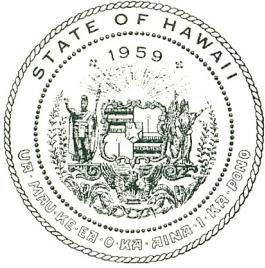


HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU  
ADRIENNE KING  
CARMILLE LIM  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH  
CAROL ANNE PHILIPS

Executive Director  
Catherine Betts, JD

Email:  
DHS.HSCSW@hawaii.gov  
Visit us at:  
humanservices.hawaii.gov  
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-586-5758  
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 14, 2013

**Testimony in Support of SB 509, Proposing an Amendment to Article I of the  
Constitution of the State of Hawaii Relating to Rights of Crime Victims**

**To:** Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Honorable Kaniela Ing, Vice-Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

**From:** Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of  
Women

**Re:** Testimony in Support of SB 509

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to provide testimony. The Commission supports SB 509. SB 509 would amend Article I of the Hawaii State Constitution to ensure that crime victims are afforded some basic rights throughout the criminal justice system. Specifically, crime victims should be notified and informed about major developments in their case, have input on plea negotiations and resulting deals, to be afforded restitution and to have knowledge of their offender's whereabouts within the system. It is clear that these basic safeguards are not consistently being provided to victims of crime. The Commission strongly believes that affording victims certain basic rights does not detract, or take away from, basic rights afforded to the accused. In reality, a balance can and must be struck to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

