TESTIMONY to the Senate Judicial Committee

S.R. 66

Urging the Governor to Strive to Achieve or Maintain Gender Equity in the Nominations and Appointments of Member to State Boards and Commissions

Monday, March 25, 2013
10:30 AM -- Conference Room 16

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members

1. A system of "quotas" based on gender is un-American and must be rejected.

2. Hawai'i could benefit if all areas of political thought were represented on Boards and Commissions. Currently with our one Party dominance, our Boards and Commissions have definite progressive "group-think" output. That is a weakness that should be corrected.

3. It is important to hire and appoint the best people based on their competence and ability to get a job done. Gender has no place in the consideration of appointments to positions. Passing over a highly qualified person to hire a less qualified person is discriminatory. There is no benefit from having the wrong person but the right gender on a board. It would be a travesty to pass up the right candidate because of quotas and then have substandard results from the Board/Committee.

4. Exactly where does "this body" find a lack of gender equity? Men and women appear to be well distributed over the job assignments and it would be acceptable if they weren't. If this resolution trying to imply there are more than two genders, then this resolution must definitely be rejected. "Intellectuals" try to translate behaviors and attitudes into genders. It may be an advant-guarde concept that is popular in today's culture, but it stretches truth beyond the pale. Selecting members of a group based on a perceived changeable characteristic is impractical and detrimental to good order and discipline. The productively of Boards and Commissions will come to a halt with the numerous law suits that would ensue because of perceived discrimination if gender other than male/female were considered as part of the selection process.