



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Submitted: Online
Hearing on: Friday, January 31, 2014
Conference Room: 325

DATE: January 28, 2014
TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice-Chair
From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director
Re: Strong Support for HB 2539 relating to Saint Marianne Cope Day

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii. We are pleased to submit this testimony in honor of Mother Marianne Cope.

On November 8, 1883, the SS Mariposa entered the harbor of Honolulu and the bells of Our Lady of Peace Cathedral rang loud and strong as crowds gathered on the wharf to witness the arrival of the Saint Francis Sisters from Syracuse, New York. These seven heroic women came because they listened to the heart of Christ and answered the cry of the Native Hawaiian people who were dying of Hansen's Disease.

Mother Marianne's hard work in the community was treasured by even the King and Queen of Hawaii as was evident in the high honor she received as she was presented the medal of the Royal Order of Kapiolani by King Kalakaua. Her desire to serve the poor and outcast among us continues to motivate each and every one of us to make a difference in this community.

In 1884, at the request of the government, she established Malulani Hospital, the first general hospital on the island of Maui. As a woman of strength and deep character, Mother Marianne convinced government officials that there was a vital need to save the homeless female children of patients with Hansen's disease and opened the Kapiolani Home.

This enduring legacy of Christians in Hawaii, specifically the Roman Catholic Church, is a great one and we are so very pleased to honor this wonderful woman who taught this community a great deal about love, commitment and care of the sick of the dying. We pray that each January 23rd, the community will pause and consider this Saint for all of us who reminds us that the life and dignity of every human person is indeed precious and sacred!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Hearing on Friday, January 31, 2014 @2:00 p.m.
Conference Room #325

DATE: January 29, 2014

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, Executive Director

RE: Strong Support for HB 2539 Relating to Saint Marianne Cope Day

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and various faith-based groups. **We strongly support this bill because the legacy of Mother Marianne Cope, and the St. Francis Sisters, is a strong foundation for faith-based action in this community.**

As many of you are already aware, the faith-based community in Hawaii has been instrumental in the ongoing the care and support of people in this community. Without the engagement of these churches, and religious-based organizations, many services would not be available to those among us who are in need. The very core of our Christian faith demands service to the wider community and many of us have answered that call.

Hawaii Family Forum represents many faith-based churches and organizations and we are extremely mindful of the efforts of people of faith, like Mother Marianne, whose work in the community is a beacon for all of us who minister across denominational lines and religious beliefs.

People in Hawaii with deeply held religious convictions have made lots of contributions to this community for many years and we hope and pray that the efforts of Mother Marianne will continue to inspire all of us to keep the faith!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill to honor Mother Marianne Cope.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Submitted: Online
Hearing on: Friday, January 31, 2014
Conference Room: 325

Date: January 30, 2014

To: House Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice-Chair

From: Jerry Rauckhorst, President & Chief Executive Officer

Re: Strong Support for HB 2539 relating to St. Marianne Cope Day

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Jerry Rauckhorst, representing Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that, in collaboration with other charitable agencies, offers more than thirty programs and services to provide assistance and outreach to those in need, regardless of their faith. Its many programs and services are coordinated and directed by skilled professionals under the guidance of an independent volunteer board of directors. We are pleased to submit this testimony in honor of Mother Marianne Cope.

As an organization dedicated to serving the most vulnerable and needy in the State of Hawaii, and an affiliate of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, CCH is grateful for the impact that Mother Marianne Cope had in our community. She embodied the mission that our organization strives to carry out every day: serving those who are voiceless, marginalized, outcast or in crisis, and creating a community of hope. Through her selflessness, compassion and determination to serve and care for patients of Hansons' Disease who were banished to Kalaupapa, Molokai, in the late 1800s, Mother Marianne reinforced their dignity and value as human beings.

To be able to honor Mother Marianne and her legacy annually on January 23 is important not only in terms of commemorating her life of service, but also in terms of an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the value of human life and how we can make a difference to those in our community who are in desperate need. Mother Marianne is a rare role model and a truly relevant one in these modern times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



HB2539

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for JUD on Jan 31, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: .. please stop this campaign.. a real saint would abhor having a day, a statue or any other attention put on her and she most likely would be outraged to find she is being used by the catholic church to cover up their diabolical crimes against children and adults.in Hawaii and elsewhere . please stop this scam

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Friday, January 31, 2014

RE: HB 2539 Compassionate Care In Strong Opposition

TO: House Chair, Vice Chair and members of the House Judiciary Committee

I strongly oppose HB2539 on the grounds that Hawaii today desperately needs a State Holiday for one of our Hawaiian Queens before it considers another day dedicated to anyone Religious person or organization.

House Bill 2539 violates the most sacred of all principles of our American Values, our Separation of State and Church. The world shows us evidence of the violent agenda of religious states such as Iran and Afganistan. Hawaii is one of the 50 US States, not a religious state in deference to our diverse backgrounds of a variety of faiths and a multitude of faith based churches.

There are Churches and Church Schools with abundant freedom, time and funds to celebrate any and all the saints they so desire. HB2539 is definitely not a State issue, rather this is a matter to be considered as a religious matter and thus remain in the realm of the Roman Catholic Diocese and not that of the Government of Hawaii.

The only hope for this bill to succeed is to replace the current saint with one of our Hawaiian Queens. Hawaii surely should honor and respect those who have been so proactive for the health and wellbeing of all Hawaii citizens. One such person who has done so much for the people of Hawaii both during their life times and into the present century. For instance, Queen Emma the humanitarian whose works lives on as Queen's Medical Center.

I have faith that the House Judiciary Committee will vote against such HB2539 as written.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB2539

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for JUD on Jan 31, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
WALTER S. KIRIMITSU	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 2539. MAHALO, WALTER KIRIMITSU

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January 30, 2014

2539

House Bill No. 2563

Relating to Saint Marianne Cope Day.

Designates January 23 of each year as Saint Marianne Cope Day in Hawaii

Saint Marianne led a group of Franciscan Sisters/Nurses to the Hawaiian Islands to care for the poor suffering souls afflicted with Hansen's disease. She was instrumental in founding schools for immigrants and hospitals to care for the people of these islands.

Saint Marianne was truly a servant of servants living in exile for more than 30 years with those to whom she ministered. Having no distinction as to a person's nationality, religion or color, she served those at Kalaupapa and made their lives more hope filled during their last years. She made it a time of peace and contentment for them. She taught us how to serve the outcasts of society.

Therefore, as an educator and Administrator of young women and men of Hawaii, I am in full support of House Bill No. 2563, designating January 23rd of each year as Saint Marianne Cope day in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Sister Joan of Arc Souza, SOSF
Head of School

Quality Catholic
Education in the
Spirit of Joy



Saint Francis School
2707 Paliwa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-988-4416
Fax: 808-988-4977
www.stfrancis-hawaii.org

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary on HB2539

I want to share my views on this bill. The bill would designate January 23 of each year as Saint Marianne Cope Day in Hawaii. It was introduced by Representatives Mizuno, Belatti, Brower, Cabanilla, Carroll, Hanohano, Ing, Kobayashi, Lowen, McKelvey, Morikawa, Nishimoto, Ohno, Rhoads, Saiki, Souki, Takai, Ward, and Woodson.

With the exceptions of Representatives Cabanilla (who was excused), Carroll, Ward, and Woodson, all of the others voted in support of SB1 during the Special Session – a measure that has done more to hurt churches and religious freedom than any law before it in this State.

It is as if by passing HB2539, Representatives Mizuno, Belatti, Brower, Hanohano, Ing, Kobayashi, Lowen, McKelvey, Morikawa, Nishimoto, Ohno, Rhoads, Saiki, Souki, and Takai will make everything alright with Catholic and other religious groups. It will look good on campaign mailers -- after all, how could anyone who voted for same-sex marriage support a day of honor for a Catholic saint.

This is political pandering at its worst and it just shows how little you care about the responsibility you hold as elected leaders. It also demeans the importance of Saint Marianne Cope to persons of the Catholic faith and all religious faiths.

As a voter, I will not forget what you have done and I vow to make sure that my friends, family, and congregation know who you are come the next election.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

January 31, 2014
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325

**TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2539
RELATING TO ST. MARIANNE COPE DAY**

By

Patrick Boland

Good afternoon Chair Rhoads and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am testifying in support of this bill.

I am Patrick Boland, a long time friend of Kalaupapa and a student of its history.

In 1883, at the invitation of the Kingdom, Mother came with a group of her Franciscan Sisters to Hawai`i to serve the sick, primarily those suffering from leprosy. She was put in charge of the Kaka`ako Branch Hospital until 1888 when she went to Kalaupapa to manage the Bishop Home for Girls and Unprotected Women.

There she labored for 30 years, until her death in 1918, caring for those society had cast out. She brought cheer, peace, and dignity to the patients, alleviating their physical and spiritual sufferings. Her heroic love and devotion is a model of service.

In 2012 she was canonized a saint of the Catholic Church, being one of only 12 Americans so recognized; one of the others being St. Damien, her companion in service to the patients.

I note that Hawai`i already has a St. Damien Day, as established by HRS Sec. 8-8. It is certainly appropriate to provide similar recognition to St. Marianne.

I urge that you pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE TESTIMONY

HB2539

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for JUD on Jan 31, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Chair, JUD Committee Right Honorable Members I support HB 2539 Relating to Saint Marianne Cope Day. However, as the title reads, this will not permit combining Saint Damien De Veuser. If he is already recognized by a similar "special" day as is proposed today for his former colleague, these two days should be combined and celebrated together, unless the intent of the co-sponsors' is to bring the focus of the Capitol law making upon the plight and needs of the Hansen's disease community. The late Director Loretta Fuddy, Dept. of Health, had just visited the Molokai facility for her annual meeting with the patients and the staff. We had a memorial service at the Co-Cathedral of Saint Theresa on School Street. I did not know that Ms. Fuddy had been on the choir of this church where my wife and I were married in 1980. There is a Stain Glass Window of Saaints Marianne and Damien on the Mauka side of the Church. However, if the makers' intent is solely to honor one of our own Saints whose relics are being returned to Hawaii, it does bear special and separate day honor. We are living in an interesting time. As a Catholic, in April 2014, the church will be canonizing two Saints: Pope John XX III and Pope John Paul II. Despite the dedication of the two saints to devote their service to the Big Island, Oahu, and Molokai, much have still to be accomplished, not just in care but concerning the "stigma". At the foot of the "Fr." Damien statue mauka of the Capitol is a brief background about the priest as well the multiple use of the word "Kokua". Please read it again today. It will bring you "chicken skin". That is the kind of person "Mother" Marianne Cope was... "A Kokua". Please obtain a waiver to the rules and unanimously consent to jointly honor Saint Damien and Saint Marianne on the same day. If a rule change has to occur to the House and Senate Rules, so be it. Mahalo nui loa, Arvid T. Youngquist Registered CD Congressional District Voter and Kailhi Valley resident. *Incidentally, I am a Roman Catholic since Dec. 1966.

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Chair Rhoads, House Judiciary Committee

LATE TESTIMONY

Subject: Testimony In SUPPORT of HB 2539 Relating to Saint Marianne Cope Day

January 30, 2014

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Judicial Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Cynthia Vaillancourt and my testimony is in strong support of HB 2539.

I respectfully request your earnest consideration to pass this bill. Passage of this bill, and its subsequent enactment in to Hawaii State Law, will benefit both residents of Hawaii and visitors to our state by raising awareness of the enduring legacy created by Saint Marianne's selfless service to the people of Hawaii who suffered the ravages and social stigma of Hansen's Disease.

Although today Hansen's Disease is no longer an untreatable disease that requires banishment of its sufferers to the remote peninsula of Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai, it is one that left an indelible imprint on the families and the fabric of the tapestry that is Hawaii. Today Hansen's Disease is one of many bacterial infections treated with modern antibiotic medications. Hawaii was fortunate to have a caregiver of the caliber of Saint Marianne. Her work in the Hawaiian Islands is known and revered throughout the world. It is a fitting tribute that she be recognized in Hawaii with a day to remember her and her acts of caring and charity for those who came before us.

Thank you for your time today.