

**HB2539**



**HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

6301 Pali Highway  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

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**Submitted:** Online  
**Hearing on:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 @ 1:15 p.m.  
**Conference Room:** 414

**DATE:** March 7, 2014  
**TO:** Senate Committee on Technology & the Arts  
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, 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 Senate Committee on Technology & the Arts, 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 Hanson'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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 Tuesday March 11, 2014 @ 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room #414

**DATE:** March 7, 2014

**TO:** Senate Committee on Technology & Arts  
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, 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 (like the Sisters of St. Francis), 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.

**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2014 9:48 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** adlau@sosf.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2539 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM  
**Attachments:** Mother Marianne Day.Senate.pages

**HB2539**

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alicia Damien Lau	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As a true Franciscan, St. Marianne Cope embraced the Hawaiian culture as she lived the live of ho'olokai - to keep peace and unity; in her daily work, she brought hau'oli - happiness and joy; and pono - the respect, caring and righteousness to all of the people whom she cared for. As a State employee, she has proven that the State and Church can work together to provide the care of its people. Today, her spirit of aloha lives on.....

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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**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** Walter Kirimitsu <wkirimitsu@saintlouishawaii.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2539

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT HB 2539 RE: SISTER MARIANNE COPE DAY.

MAHALO,  
WALTER KIRIMITSU  
PRESIDENT,  
SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL  
HONOLULU, HI

Sent from my iPhone

**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:04 PM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** kananisouza@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2539 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM

**HB2539**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I provide testimony in strong support of HB2539 to designate January 23 of each year as "Saint Marianne Cope Day." It is important to note that this is not a holiday and that this measure would mirror a bill passed several years ago to have a "Saint Damien Day" in Hawaii. Saint Marianne Cope is only the second person, after Saint Damien, who had served in Hawaii to be canonized. Both Saint Damien and Saint Cope dedicated their entire life to help care for patients suffering from leprosy or Hansen's disease on Molokai.

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**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2014 9:09 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** jasmineramos808@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2539 on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM

**HB2539**

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

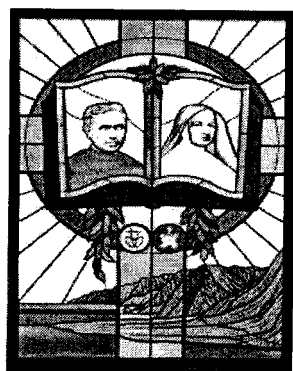
Testimony for TEC on Mar 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 2539 to designate January 23 of each year as Saint Marianne Cope Day. As many of you know, Hawaii already has a Saint Damien Day in the Hawaii Revised Statutes and this would be fair to Mother Marianne Cope, as she was also canonized. Also, Saint Marianne Cope spent her life caring for the people of Hawaii who suffered from Hansen's disease, on Kalaupapa, Molokai. This would be a nice recognition for a person who exemplifies the spirit of Aloha and Ohana in Hawaii.

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# Damien and Marianne Foundation

*Their acts of Aloha for our people will never be forgotten.*

Date: March 10, 2014  
To: Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
From: Stuart W. H. Ching, Director/Curator  
Re: Support for HB 2539 Relating to Saint Marianne Cope Day

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Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts, I am Stuart Ching, Director/Curator of the Damien and Marianne Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation. The mission of this Foundation is to engage people of diverse backgrounds to learn about the life of Saint Marianne Cope, St. Damien De Veuster, and the people of Hawaii, especially Kalaupapa. We are pleased to submit this testimony in support of Saint Marianne Cope Day in Hawaii.

Answering an appeal from the Hawaiian Government for health care workers, Mother Marianne Cope arrived in Hawaii in 1883. She was accompanied by six Sisters of the Order of St. Francis from Syracuse, New York. Mother Marianne immediately set about revolutionizing the health care system here in Hawaii. She was an advocate for patients' rights, insisting that all patients be treated with compassion, dignity, and respect. Under her guidance, all patients would be cared for equally, regardless of their religion, race, or medical condition. As a proponent of new ideas about sanitation and hygiene, she greatly improved on existing conditions of health facilities in Hawaii.

Mother Marianne's past experience, in the founding and administration of hospitals in New York, provided her with the necessary skills to undertake similar work here. She accepted management of Kakaako Branch Hospital on Oahu in 1883, and established Malulani Hospital on Maui in 1884. Taking a special interest in the welfare of children, she assumed responsibility for the Kapiolani Home for Girls on Oahu in 1885, the Bishop Home for Girls at Kalaupapa in 1888, and the Boys' Home at Kalawao in 1889.

Mother Marianne Cope died in 1918 after 35 years of dedicated service to the people of Hawaii. Her acts of caring and compassion have become sources of inspiration, while her achievements in health care for the people of Hawaii have become her lasting legacy. It is for these reasons that Mother Marianne Cope is worthy of recognition with the designation of January 23 of each year as Saint Marianne Cope Day in Hawaii.

A Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) Corporation

A charitable and educational organization that supports the legacy of Damien and Marianne.