

Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
City and County of Honolulu

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**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii**

February 9, 2015

RE: H.B. 1198; RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HONOLULU FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department) submits the following testimony in strong support of House Bill 1198, with amendments.

The Honolulu Family Justice Center (HFJC) is a public safety initiative developed by the Department that will provide comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, sex assault and human trafficking as well as long-term transitional housing. The HFJC will provide victims with a safe environment during some of their most vulnerable stages of separation from their abusers and encourage increased trust and understanding between victims and police and prosecutors, to better facilitate and follow-through on prosecution of these offenses. This, in turn, will help to hold more offenders accountable for their actions, and ultimately decrease incidents of recidivism.

As part of its legislative package, the Department submitted House Bill 211, which requests \$350,000 as a grant-in-aid for the Honolulu Family Justice Center (HFJC). House Bill 211 is substantially similar to House Bill 1198. Both bills would provide grant funding for the HFJC.

House Bill 1198 differs from House Bill 211 as follows:

1. House Bill 1198 would appropriate monies for the HFJC “as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes”
2. House Bill 1198 adds language that, in addition to the hiring of necessary staff, the funds would be used for “[r]isk-assessment training regarding domestic violence and sexual abuse and trauma; and . . . [e]valuation services for victims . . .”; and
3. House Bill 1198 adds a requirement of matching funds for the HFJC on a one-to-one basis from the City and County of Honolulu.

The Department requests the following amendments to House Bill 1198:

- A. The reference to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, should be deleted as that chapter authorizes grant funding to individuals, private organizations and non-profit organizations but does not authorize funding for government agencies; and
- B. The HFJC will be providing training to HFJC staff including, but not limited to, risk assessment training regarding domestic violence and sexual abuse and trauma as well as evaluation services for the HFJC staff. The Department would prefer flexibility in the types of training that are provided to the HFJC staff and accordingly, respectfully requests that the enumeration of specific types of training be deleted in House Bill 1198.

The Department has no objection to the matching fund requirement in House Bill 1198. The Department has requested the amount of \$350,000 for the HFJC in its FY16 operating budget request to the Honolulu City Council. In addition, the Honolulu City Council has already appropriated \$6,220,000 in the FY15 Executive Capital Budget which has enabled the City to purchase a 24-unit, 1-bedroom apartment building in Makiki to house the HFJC. The City fully supports the HFJC and has already made a substantial investment in the HFJC. It is anticipated that the City will continue its support of the HFJC with continued appropriations to fund the operations of the HFJC. Accordingly, the Department has no objection to the matching fund requirement in House Bill 1198.

For the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports the passage of House Bill 1198, with the amendments as noted above. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

February 9, 2015

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
And members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Linda Santos, Chair
Debbie Shimizu
**The Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute and
The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma**

RE: **HB 1198 Relating to Appropriations for the Honolulu Family
Justice Center**

Hawai'i
International
Training
Summit:
*Preventing,
Assessing &
Treating Trauma
across the
Lifespan*

Linda Santos, MSW
Host Committee
Chair



Robert Geffner, PhD
President, FVSAI



**Sandi Capuano
Morrison, MA**
Executive Director,
IVAT

www.ivatcenters.org
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Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, we are volunteers for The Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI) and The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT). The mission of these two nonprofit agencies is to improve the quality of life for individuals by sharing and disseminating vital information, improving collaborations and networking, conducting research and trainings, assisting with program evaluation and consultation to promote violence-free living.

For the past 12 years, FVSAI and IVAT have been collaborating with many of the state agencies and nonprofit programs to sponsor an International Training Summit in Hawaii on the latest research, prevention, assessment and intervention techniques concerning various aspects of trauma and maltreatment, including child abuse and domestic violence. This year, the Summit will attract over 800 individuals from Hawaii, the mainland, as well as foreign countries such as Taiwan, Japan, China, and New Zealand. FVSAI is also in the process of establishing a local branch here in the islands.

We would like to propose an amendment to HB 1198. We would like to add after line 12:

(4) Program evaluation by a third party entity

We are pleased to see new, innovative programs that will help victims of violence and abuse through the healing process and toward self-sufficiency. However, to determine if the program is accomplishing its mission and using public money efficiently, it must be evaluated by an objective third party so the most effective techniques can be determined for best practices. This is how model programs are created. This third party entity could be a nonprofit, the University, or the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1198.

LATE

Hawaii Family Law Clinic, dba



To: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Edwin K. Flores, Ala Kuola
Hearing Date and Time: February 10, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
Re: HB 1198

TESTIMONY FOR HB 1198

Good afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, members of the JUD Committee, I am Edwin Flores, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Family Law Clinic also known as Ala Kuola. We strongly support HB 1198.

In the past, we have supported prior efforts to pass similar legislation for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. We reiterate our strong support for the underlying intent and purpose of this Bill.

There clearly is a need for an “one stop shop” to address ongoing situations of domestic violence, sexual abuse and related trauma that currently does not exist. Ala Kuola has already committed to the completion and filing of Family Court TROs for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. The Honolulu Family Justice Center is intended to provide a facility that provides comprehensive services to address all aspects of domestic violence at a single location, which has been lacking up to this point in time.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to present our position on HB 1198 and am ready to address any questions that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee members may have.