

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

Comments:



LATE

2015

To: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

From: Marci Lopes, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB 1199 – STRONG SUPPORT
PLACE: Conference Room 325
DATE and TIME: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:00 p.m.

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide partnership of 21 domestic violence programs and 9 emergency domestic violence shelters. We have member representation from domestic violence service providers on 6 of our Hawaiian Islands. Our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

As a result of the highly publicized incident in which an officer abused his former girlfriend and the public outrage and concern that ensued, an informational briefing was scheduled. As the Executive Director for the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence I provided testimony in that briefing. Testimony from the police commission brought forth many more concerns from our membership, community allies, advocates, and most importantly from victim/survivors about the oversight of the Honolulu Police Department. We continue to have concerns about officers who remain on the force assigned to desk duty, when they have committed domestic violence, or have TRO's or Protection Orders against them.

Just this week I was contacted by two survivors who have abusers who are currently HPD officers assigned to desk duty. Since October of 2014 HSCADV has developed a strong working relationship with HPD, and we are hopeful our efforts to improve police response for victims will continue. HSCADV has provided HPD with best practice standards, recommendations on needed policy and procedure changes, and additional needed policies, but these have yet to be implemented and put in place. We have seen committed officers who want to make improvements and positive change, but their hands are tied unless the recommendations are approved and adequate training is implemented.

Many of the good efforts we have experienced firsthand continue to be overshadowed by the distrust many of our community members feel because of the lack of clear and enforceable discipline policies for police officers who engage in domestic violence.

We strongly support HB 1199. This is an opportunity to make meaningful change and to establish credibility, and to restore confidence our community, advocates and victims of domestic violence deserve.

Respectfully,

Marci Lopes, Executive Director

LATE

By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this initiative to improve the way that HPD handles domestic violence cases, especially among their own. Ann S. Freed Mililani, Hawaii