

**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 07, 2015 2:09 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** cariagacora@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1248 on Feb 12, 2015 09:30AM

**HB1248**

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for HUS on Feb 12, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Big Island Adult foster home operators	Support	No

Comments:  

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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**February 12, 2015**

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair; Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair; Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair; and Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair;  
and  
Members of the **House Committee on Human Services, and the House Committee on Judiciary**

From: Dr. Susan J. Wurtzburg  
Policy Chair, **American Association of University Women – Hawaii**

Re. **Testimony in Support, HB 1248, Relating to Sexual Assault**

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1248, relating to sexual assault. My testimony is on behalf of the approximately 400 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawai'i, who list violence against women as their most important current concern. This testimony is also informed by five years experience of teaching undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, which has provided insight into the disturbing levels of sexual violence occurring on the state university's flagship campus. In addition, my area of expertise is gender violence, and I worked for many years with survivors of violence in New Zealand.

On behalf of my current constituents, I argue strongly that HB 1248 should be approved today for a number of reasons. This bill terminates the parental rights of men who are convicted of rape, when the rape has resulted in the birth of a child. No woman should be forced to confront her sexual assailant years after the event in ongoing custodial discussions. This is cruelty to both the woman and her child, and makes it difficult for both parties to maintain good emotional health. Some legal scholars have termed this abusive court process as "the second rape."

Not only can men use the vagueness of the current statute as a means for ongoing contact with their rape victim, they can also use the current law to elude legal sanctions. When parental rights are not automatically terminated, men can use parental rights as a bargaining tool encouraging women not to testify against them in court, which is poor justice indeed.

For all of these reasons, I argue strongly that HB 1248 should move forward into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 10:04 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** cariagacora@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1248 on Feb 12, 2015 09:30AM\*

**HB1248**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HUS on Feb 12, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Big Island Adult foster home operators	Support	No

Comments:

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