

January 28, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Monday, February 1, 2016 at 2:00 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

FROM:

Lisa Wond



SUBJECT: **H.B. 1578, RELATING TO THEFT**

My name is Lisa Wond and I support H.B. 1578.

Last June, thieves broke into the gravesite of my grandfather, my grandmother, my aunt and my uncle, and stole their urns. The thieves took the urns to Reynolds Recycling, and received \$31. For them, it was a way to make money.

For our family, it was heartbreaking. Our family canvassed the graveyard and surrounding areas, but the ashes of my family members were never recovered. My hardworking grandparents came to Hawaii a century ago, to build a better life for themselves. They raised ten children, all law-biding, taxpaying, and contributing members of our communities. Our family is on its fifth generation, and numbers nearly 100. In Hawaii, where we respect our elders and our ancestors, what the thieves did to our family was unbelievable.

For us, they stole much more than the urns and ashes of our loved ones. We mourn for a second time the loss of our family members. My mom has had many sleepless nights over the loss of her parents' ashes and what we thought was their final resting place. We are unable to continue our family's culture and tradition of taking our children and grandchildren to visit our family gravesite, knowing that it lies empty. I feel violated and angry that anyone could commit such desperate and selfish acts against us, for \$31.

It is a sad statement of our society when we have to enact laws to prevent people from stealing the urns of dead people. But I fully support this bill, with the hope that it will deter thieves enough to prevent other families from going through what we are enduring.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

**LATE**

woodson2-Shingai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 9:09 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: tracy.j.aki@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM

**HB1578**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tracy Aki           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: I support this bill. My relatives' grave was broken into and ashes of my aunty, uncle, grandma, and grandpa were taken. The urns were taken to a recycling center. My cousin hunted for them and found them, but the ashes had been dumped somewhere. That was traumatic and devastating for my family. Passing this bill will ensure that the message is clear that doing such despicable acts is serious and punishable. Please pass HB1578.

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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LATE TESTIMONY

February 1, 2016

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TO: Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair  
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Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
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FROM: Sherry Goya

SUBJECT: H. B. No. 1578, Relating to Theft

LATE

LATE

I am in support of HB1578 because if this law can deter people from stealing such a private item as an urn and help families feel secure that their loved ones will remain in their sacred spots, it must become law.

The four urns that were stolen from my husband's family grave site continues to bring heartache just thinking where their ashes could be. His grandfather passed before I could meet him, but his grandmother was a loving and caring person who knew that I would marry her grandson and we celebrate 40 years this December. His uncle and aunt were kind and wonderful people who I still think of today. Every person in the Nagamine family continue to grieve their loss years ago, but now grieve that their ashes are lost forever.

A stricter penalty for this type of theft brings forefront the reality that nowadays people will steal anything. If common sense did not deter them from stealing urns, a law is needed.

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this bill.

