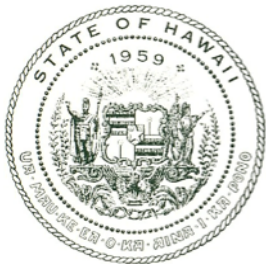


HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA  
CYD HOFFELD  
JUDY KERN  
MARILYN LEE  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director  
Catherine Betts, JD

Email:  
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov  
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/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-586-5758  
FAX: 808-586-5756

February 9, 2016

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

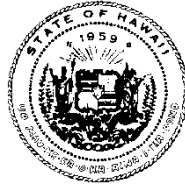
Re: Testimony in Support, HB 1901, Relating to Domestic Violence

The Commission supports HB 1901, which would require any state, city, or county agency that employs personnel whose job duties require or may require intervention in a domestic abuse situation to have a minimum of 15 hours of training regarding domestic abuse intervention.

Comprehensive, ongoing, and culturally competent training regarding domestic violence is crucial for anyone working with victims, survivors, or family members involved in domestic violence. When adequate training is not received, systemic and institutionalized ramifications are felt—including victims being forced to file for a restraining order in order to retain custody of children (identified as not a best practice, but still occurring), limited english proficiency (LEP) victims not being offered interpreter services because a responding officer doesn't identify the person as LEP, or children being removed from a protective parent because a first responder identifies the victim as the abuser. These are all egregious results that stem from a lack of training about the complexities of domestic violence.

The Honolulu City Council passed resolution 14-251, which created the Honolulu County Domestic Violence Response Task Force. I sat as Co-Chair of that Task Force and helped to develop preliminary and final recommendations through that process. The preliminary and final recommendations of that community wide task force included extensive, ongoing and culturally competent training for all intervenors in domestic violence. This has been an ongoing recommendation from many victim service providers for the better part of the last three decades. It's time that this crucial step in making our community safer is implemented. 15 hours is a small amount of time to commit in order to ensure all families in Hawaii live in safety. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

February 11, 2016 9:30 A.M.  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**HB 1901**  
**RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

Honorable Chair Morikawa and Members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding House Bill (HB) 1901, relating to domestic violence.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of this measure to require any state or county agency that employs personnel whose job duties require or may require intervention in a domestic violence situation to provide such employees with a minimum of 15 hours of domestic violence intervention training.

The HPHA welcomes any efforts to improve the safety and well-being of its tenants, as well as training to equip HPHA staff to address incidents of domestic violence. The HPHA has adopted a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) administrative policy, which implements applicable provisions of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113-4, 127 Stat. 54), providing protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, across the HPHA's administration of all of its federally subsidized public housing and Section 8 rental assistance programs.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Human Services with the HPHA's comments regarding HB 1901. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA  
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
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Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

February 9, 2016

The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Committee on Human Services  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 442  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Morikawa:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1901 Relating to Domestic Violence

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD would like to provide the following comments on HB 1901.

HFD personnel are trained in emergency medical treatment to sustain life in alliance with emergency medical personnel. In cases of possible domestic violence, HFD personnel are trained to identify mechanisms of injury and people with suspicious causes of injury. In these cases, the HFD yields to police and emergency medical personnel.

Thank you for allowing the SFC and the HFD to provide comments on HB 1901.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MPN".

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/EYS:clc

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawai`i**

February 11, 2016

**RE: H.B. 1901; RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, members of the House Committee on Human Services, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 1901.

The purpose of H.B. 1901 is to ensure that first responders are able to recognize the various signs associated with domestic violence, and are properly equipped with the right tools to handle the myriad of domestic violence situations that will likely encounter in the course of their duties. Our Department agrees that domestic violence is an epidemic that does not discriminate between age, economic status, gender or race and our goals and objectives are in line with the intent of H.B. 1901. However, this bill would mandate a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of training regarding domestic abuse intervention without the proper allocation of funds to facilitate such training, thereby making it nearly impossible to implement.

Although H.B. 1901 has good intentions, requiring mandatory training creates a financial burden for large agencies to comply, without proper funding. In addition, the lack of specificity regarding when a job duty "requires or may require" intervention may lead to a wide range of interpretations by various agencies, which could lead to unintended non-compliance.

For all of the reasons stated above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes H.B. 1901. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**TO:** Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services  
**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)  
**DATE/LOCATION:** February 11, 2016; 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1901 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

My name is Ryan Kusumoto. I am the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together.

**I strongly urge you to support HB 1901 – Relating to Domestic Violence.** We support the intent of HB 1901 to require training for state and county employees who act as interveners in domestic violence situations. **We also believe it is essential to include school personnel under this bill.** Students who are at risk or currently living in domestic violence situations are most likely to show signs of poor academic performance led by unhealthy behaviors. In order to provide the best and most convenient services to families experiencing these unfortunate situations, we must educate teachers and staff to become professional interveners of domestic violence.

Schools are primary connections to our communities that also share strong relationships with our parents and keiki. It would only be natural that we take advantage of those trusting relationships to provide the services they need and further benefit from. The teachers who spend time with the students on a daily basis should be able to recognize signs of unhealthy influence and link resources to their families. School personnel should no longer wonder out of suspicion or feel hopeless in attempts to help students in need.

It is of crucial importance that we maintain involvement between schools and the community to ensure healthy families and generations to come. With the expansion of resources provided by trained interveners of domestic violence situations, we will make great strides to reduce the amount of domestic violence occurrences and families affected by it.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 1901**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



February 10, 2016

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 11, 2016 (9:30 a.m.)  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329  
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –  
Hawaii in **support of H.B. 1901**, relating to domestic  
violence training

Dear Representative Dee Morikawa (Chair), and Representative Bertrand Kobayashi (Vice Chair), and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of H.B. 1901**, requiring a minimum of fifteen hours of domestic violence specific education for first responders.

My testimony is on behalf of the approximately 400 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawaii, who list gender-based violence as an important current concern. My testimony is informed by many years of work in the field of domestic violence, and research conducted with survivors of intimate partner violence. In addition, when I lived in New Zealand, I managed a 24-hour, 7-days/week domestic violence hotline, and I also trained hotline Advocates to respond skillfully and empathetically to survivors of violence. I provided extensive education to Advocates for Women, and also worked with police, courts, and other service agencies on behalf of survivors.

Based on these experiences, I argue that passage of H.B. 1901 is vitally important, with great potential to improve assistance offered to survivors of violence in Hawaii. It is essential to mandate education for “state and county employees who act as interveners in domestic violence situations, including but not limited to judges, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and law enforcement” (H.B. 1901, lines 14-17). I have taught at the University of Hawaii – Manoa for six years, and have heard many horror stories from students about lack of assistance from law enforcement. This is inexcusable, and this situation will only change with education and police instruction from higher levels to deal appropriately with survivors of domestic violence.

In conclusion, passage of H.B. 1901 is an important step in improving service provision from state and county employees for survivors of domestic violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely  
Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.  
Policy Chair



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

**LATE**

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair**  
**Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

DATE: February 11, 2016  
TIME: 9:30 a.m  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

### **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1901 relating to Domestic Violence**

Good afternoon Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members. The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is in **strong support of HB 1901** relating to the training of state and county agency personnel (first responders and the like) in how to handle cases of domestic violence.

To quote the bill "there is no consistency amongst agencies who intervene in domestic violence situations regarding the level of training personnel receive to ensure proper domestic violence intervention."

Coalition members were present this summer at a hearing held by members of the legislature regarding HPD's handling (or mishandling) of the case of a police officer caught on camera assaulting his girl friend. During that hearing we were appalled to hear the miniscule amount of training that police officers receive on the issue of domestic violence: three hours as recruits and a refresher course every year for just one hour of training. We feel the 15 hours of training is not an onerous burden to place on agencies responsible for the public good, given the scope of the problem

The Coalition is in strong support of this bill. Please pass the important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition  
Contact: [annsfreed@gmail.com](mailto:annsfreed@gmail.com) Phone: 808-623-5676

**kobayashi2-Jessi**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:27 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** amymonk99@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1901 on Feb 11, 2016 09:30AM\*



**HB1901**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 11, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Monk	Individual	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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**LATE**

February 10, 2016

To: House Committee on Human Services  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Michelle Rocca, Training and Technical Assistance Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1901, Relating to Domestic Violence

Good afternoon Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. On behalf of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence we thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in **support of HB 1901** relating to domestic violence training.

Domestic violence is a serious and pervasive issue in our community. Having a consistent, well informed, and evidence based response from the professionals across the various systems that intersect with survivors is imperative to achieve a desirable outcome. Judges, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and law enforcement are some of the systems that a victim/survivor may cross paths with in her journey to seek justice and safety from a violent partner. This measure will ensure that the professionals in these fields are trained with a minimum of fifteen hours of education to best meet the needs of a survivor.

Domestic violence is a dangerous and often lethal crime. Research strongly indicates that domestic violence is one of, if not the most predominant social issues in our State. According to the Bureau of Justice, one third of all murdered females are killed by their current or former intimate partners. A coordinated community response is the best tool we have to combat domestic violence as a society, and a coordinated community begins with adequate training and education. We believe that fifteen hours of training is manageable for the departments to implement and will help alleviate ambiguity and confusion a responder may have when determining the best means possible to meet the needs of a domestic abuse victim.

Equipping our systems with the knowledge and tools that they need to adequately respond to these complex and often dangerous scenarios improves the experience for the victims, and assists professionals with meeting the responsibilities of their duties in a confident and competent manner.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.





**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair**  
**Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

DATE: February 11, 2016  
TIME: 9:30 a.m  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2311 relating to Domestic Violence**

Good afternoon Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members. The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is in **strong support of HB 19011** relating to the training of state and county agency personnel (first responders and the like) in how to handle cases of domestic violence.

To quote the bill "there is no consistency amongst agencies who intervene in domestic violence situations regarding the level of training personnel receive to ensure proper domestic violence intervention."

Coalition members were present this summer at a hearing held by members of the legislature regarding HPD's handling (or mishandling) of the case of a police officer caught on camera assaulting his girl friend. During that hearing we were appalled to hear the miniscule amount of training that police officers receive on the issue of domestic violence: three hours as recruits and a refresher course every year for just one hour of training. We feel the 15 hours of training is not an onerous burden to place on agencies responsible for the public good, given the scope of the problem

The Coalition is in strong support of this bill. Please pass the important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition  
Contact: [annsfreed@gmail.com](mailto:annsfreed@gmail.com) Phone: 808-623-5676