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TO: Chair Gil Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A
RE: HB 58 HD 1 Comments

Aloha. And thank you for your consideration of this testimony. It is our responsibility to urge you to examine the community needs related to addressing domestic violence, one of our complex and costly community problems with broad impact.

Hope Cards are an interesting compliment to the system for bringing safety to survivors through the community resource network.

Through this testimony we convey several issues for consideration:

1. Hope Cards would be available for all orders granted that are longer than 90 days or 180 days; that constitutes all restraining orders issued by Family Court
2. Funds collected would be deposited into the general fund. Perhaps those funds would be made available to support programs designed to address domestic violence (survivors and children – support groups, counseling, advocacy, legal services)
3. On page 5, Section 28, the program can work to obtain funds from grants, donors and other sources. There exists a rather limited pool of resources available to support existing program services; creating another program to compete for the limited funds may undermine current efforts at maintaining sufficient capacity to serve island families suffering the harm of abuse
4. The costs to administer the program and its development may be prohibitive; current programs are being told that funding is especially limited at the present time

Thank you for your consideration of all the perspectives pertaining to the development of a Hawaii Hope Card program.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Diana Cristina Villa Costa
Re: HB 58 HD1

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2015
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 58 HD 1

Good afternoon Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am Diana Cristina Villa Costa and I am in strong support of HB 58 HD1.

I have an Order for Protection from the Family Court of the First Circuit Court that expires on February 26 2017 and I am in support of this measure - as a practical means to prove the existence of my Order for Protection.

I am required to carry the seven page Order for Protection with me 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Despite this requirement, because of the size of the Order for Protection, there are times that I cannot keep it with me.

In addition, there are the times that I have forgotten the restraining order at home, my car or simply in a different purse, in these situations, I worry about my own safety and my two minor children who are included in that restraining order.

Besides my regular responsibilities as a working citizen and mother of two children, I enjoy walking and jogging outdoors during my spare time. Carrying a restraining order while jogging on the road or trails can be difficult and unpractical. The copy wears out and gets wet and it is too big.

My understanding is that the Hope Card is the size of a credit card and will replace the requirement to keep the seven page Order for Protection with me at all times. The Hope Card can be easily carried by a person.

My paper Order for Protection has been subject to wear and tear over time. I find myself making new photo copies every so often. Since the Hope Card is made of durable and water resistant materials, it will be subject to less damage. I strongly believe that making this improvement will benefit many people like me in providing a practical card and with that, a sense of safety that we all deserve.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to present my supporting position on HB 58 HD 1 -

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Costa