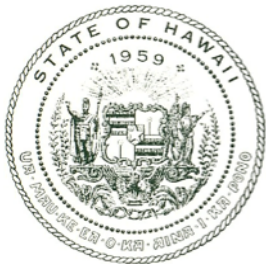


HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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

Executive Director
Catherine Betts

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

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

March 20, 2016

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Labor

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

Re: Testimony in Support HR 88/HCR 136

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of these resolutions. The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1981. It is the only human rights treaty focusing on women's rights. Almost all countries in the world have ratified CEDAW—187 out of 194 countries. The United States is one of 7 countries which have refused to ratify CEDAW. In countries which have ratified CEDAW, women and girls have been able to partner with their governments to improve the status of women and girls and institutionalize gender equity in new ways. In 1998, San Francisco became the first municipality in the world to adopt the principles of CEDAW. Other cities and counties across the nation are moving towards the adoption and implementation of CEDAW as a means to ensure gender equity in all city and county services, policies, and procedures.

Although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality, Hawaii women still only make 86 cents to a man's dollar (for the same work performed and with the same qualifications). Additionally, women still serve as primary caretakers of family members, despite also serving in the workforce and acting as sole or primary breadwinners in a majority of Hawaii families. While we have made some strides in preventing violence against women, Hawaii women are still at high risk of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Anecdotally and statistically, it is clear that we can and should be doing more to ensure the safety, economic self sufficiency, and equitable treatment of Hawaii's women and girls.

These resolutions call for all state departments and counties to affirm and uphold the tenets found in CEDAW. Specifically, the resolutions call for a gender analysis of city and state functions, including budgetary considerations. The resolutions also calls for the collection of disaggregate data—this is crucial to understanding the differences in discrimination as they may pertain to different counties. They also urge all counties and state departments to work with the Commission in order to create a framework to do a gender analysis. The Commission supports these resolutions and urges their passage.

LABtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2016 11:58 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR88 on Mar 22, 2016 10:30AM*

HR88

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for LAB on Mar 22, 2016 10:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



o'ahu

YWCA Fernhurst
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
(808) 941-2231

YWCA Kokokahi
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
(808) 247-2124

YWCA Laniākea
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 538-7061

www.ywcaoahu.org

To: Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

From: Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer
YWCA O'ahu

Re: Testimony of in support of HR88/ HCR136 - REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENTS
AND THE SEVERAL COUNTIES TO AFFIRM THE TENETS AND PRINCIPLES
FOUND IN THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 10:30 a.m. - Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 309

The YWCA of Oahu strongly supports HR88/HCR136, which adopts and implements on a local level the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

CEDAW is a landmark treaty that was adopted by the United Nations in 1979. It is the most comprehensive international agreement on eliminating discrimination against women in every sphere—economic, political and social and addressing issues such as equal education, equal employment and training opportunities, social benefits including social security, health care, maternity benefits, child care etc. It also addresses sex trafficking and domestic abuse.

Since its adoption, 186 nations have ratified CEDAW, making it one of the most highly ratified human rights treaties in history. The United States played an important role in drafting CEDAW before U.N. ratification, but more than 20 years later has yet to adopt it as law. Today, the United States is one of only seven countries (i.e. Iran, Nauru, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, and Tonga) and the only democracy in the world that has yet to ratify CEDAW.

While the federal government may not be willing to codify this convention into law, cities and states across the country are playing an important role in implementing CEDAW, directly impacting the everyday lives of countless American women. In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt such an ordinance reflecting CEDAW. Since then, 16 counties and 42 cities have used the CEDAW human rights framework to guide its policymaking, developing a number of innovative programs and tools to advance women's human rights.

City CEDAW policies contributed to measurable differences in public safety, budgetary allocations and employment for women in their communities. We believe that the people of Hawaii will benefit greatly with the passing of HR88 and HCR136. This resolution would create a framework for improving the status of women and girls through analyzing City and County workforce, services, programming and policies to integrate gender considerations and to institutionalize new ways of thinking about gender equity. It would also promote equal access to employment, economic development and educational opportunities for women and girls and would also address the continuing problem of violence against women and girls. To exemplify how a local ordinance could affect our community, consider Hawaii's gender pay gap. According to a 2014 American Association of University Women (AAUW) report, median earnings for men in Hawaii were \$48,440 compared to women's median earnings of \$40,370 — an earnings ratio of just 83 percent, or 83 cents to the dollar. A local CEDAW would be a step towards eliminating pay discrimination and closing the gender pay gap, which would vastly improve the economic outlook for our women and their dependents.

Please note that in 2008, the State of Hawaii adopted House Resolution 16, requesting CEDAW's ratification by the United States. It is clear that our local community supports the equal treatment and fundamental rights of women. In lieu of the Legislature's past support of CEDAW ratification and the successful outcomes in cities that have implemented CEDAW policies, we ask for your favorable consideration of this resolution.

The YWCA of Oahu is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that has served Hawaii for over 100 years. We are also the largest women's organization in Hawaii, serving over 2,000 members. The YWCA of O'ahu is guided by the core concepts of the YWCA's mission - to empower women and eliminate racism. We provide safe places for women and girls, build strong women leaders, and advocate for women's rights and civil rights in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.