

DAVID Y. IGE
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2321, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

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

Tuesday, March 15, 2016; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 2321, Senate Draft (SD) 2.

SB 2321, SD 2 seeks to require domestic violence training for personnel who may find themselves addressing domestic violence situations in the course of their State employment. The Department currently meets the proposed eight (8) hour minimum training requirement. PSD's training academy (Training and Staff Development or "TSD") provides pre-service and in-service training for PSD uniform and civilian staff and currently hosts a full schedule of departmental training programs. The TSD three-part domestic violence training includes sessions for instructors (40 hours), law enforcement officers (24 hours), and family violence investigators (16 hours).

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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March 14, 2016

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

Dear Chair Morikawa:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2321, Senate Draft (SD) 2 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 provide the following comments on SB 2321, SD 2, which proposes to require state or county personnel whose job duties require or may require intervention in a domestic violence situation be provided with a minimum eight hours of domestic violence intervention training.

HFD personnel are trained in emergency medical treatment to sustain life in concert 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 services personnel.

Thank you for allowing the SFC and the HFD to provide comments on SB 2321, SD 2.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

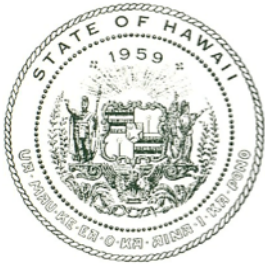
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Manuel P. Neves".

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/EYS:clc

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
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

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

March 13, 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, SB 2321, SD2, Relating to Domestic Violence

The Commission supports SB 2321, SD2, 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 8 hours of training regarding domestic abuse intervention. The Commission continues to support additional hours of training, noting that the bill's original language specified 15 hours.

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 and nuances of domestic violence. While agencies may feel that this request is cumbersome and unnecessary, all anecdotal and statistical evidence reflects the high need for specialized training for any first responder. When a positive, helpful, and unbiased first responder interacts with a victim of domestic violence, the first responder has an immediate impact—one that can mean the difference between life and death.

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. Training staff for 8 hours is a small amount of time to commit in order to ensure all victims are treated with dignity and respect.

The Commission supports SD2, but has concerns with the training being housed within the Commission. The Commission was created by Executive Order in 1964 and its statutory mandates are found in Hawaii Revised Statutes 367-3, which details the Commission's work as a resource and central clearinghouse of data and information pertinent to women and their rights. Currently, we have two staff members and the Commissioners are appointed by the Governor and serve as volunteers. The Commission supports further discussion regarding a suitable placement for the training program.



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: March 15, 2016; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2321, SD2 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I strongly urge you to support SB 2321, SD2 – Relating to Domestic Violence. We support the intent of SB 2321, SD2 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 SB 2321, SD2**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



25 Years

TO: Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Members of the Committees

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer

RE: S.B. 2321 SD2 Support with Comments

Aloha! Thank you for hearing this Measure today. There have been many discussions and a great deal of attention focused on our community's response to domestic violence. As a participant on a variety of workgroups, ad hoc bodies, governor and attorney general appointed committees, the discussion inevitably focuses on training.

Effective and appropriate intervention in domestic violence is necessary to create safety, secure accountability, and pave the way for obtaining support. In order for this to be achieved it is essential that a sufficient understanding of the complexity of domestic violence and suitable responses are standard practice by intervenors, system wide. Currently, the various public agencies provide different kinds of training and make different investments in the time devoted to training. It is safe to say, that the complexity of this issue cannot be well understood in just a few hours. We must collectively commit to solid training. This will save lives, and bring immeasurable support to the families suffering the harm of abuse.

We are in absolute support of this Bill to require a mandatory minimum amount of training. **Eight hours (8) is really not sufficient for grasping the complexity, the appropriate interventions, and the community system that is in place to respond.** At the Domestic Violence Action Center, all new staff participates in 4 days of training, and annually we expect staff to attend no fewer than 4 trainings. Just as it is crucial for our staff, community leaders in serving families, it is crucial for our system allies to make a similar commitment.

Thank you for allowing us to share our perspective. We shall look forward to favorable action on S.B. 2321 SD2.

P. O. Box 3198 Honolulu, HI 96801-3198
O'ahu Helpline: 808 531-3771 | Toll-free: 800 690-6200 | Administration: 808 534-0040 | Fax 808 531-7228
dvac@stoptheviolence.org | www.domesticviolenceactioncenter |
facebook.com/domesticviolenceactioncenterhawaii





March 15, 2016

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

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SB 2321 SD2 Relating to Domestic Violence
Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of SB 2321 SD2 Relating to Domestic Violence. However, we prefer the original version of the measure which would require 15 hours of training rather than the reduced requirement of 8 hours of training. Domestic violence is a serious and complex issue. Its seriousness deserves more than a day of training.

Domestic violence is a pervasive and life-threatening issue in our community. In order to address the seriousness of domestic violence, we need consistent, well-informed, and evidence-based responses from first responders and others who come into contact with survivors. Judges, firefighters, emergency medical services and law enforcement personnel are some of the systems that a victim/survivor may cross paths with in her journey to seek justice and to protect herself and her family. This measure will ensure that the professionals in these fields are trained with a minimum of fifteen hours of domestic violence specific 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.

It will also lead to a better understanding of the needs of the victim and her family. Hopefully the training will also help dispel myths and misunderstandings of the needs of the victim. We want to prevent questions like "why don't you just leave him?" or "what did you expect when you went back?" We also want responders to be educated to avoid victim blaming and victim shaming, which could prevent victims from calling for help in the future. Equipping our systems with the knowledge and tools that are needed 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.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus supports this important measure.

We ask that you pass this measure and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:23 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2321 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2321

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

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.

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HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

March 14, 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 SB 2321, SD2**

Good morning 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 SB 2321, SD 2 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 eight 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 eight 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.



March 14, 2016

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 (9:00 a.m.)
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –
Hawaii in **support of S.B. 2321 S.D. 2**, relating to domestic
violence training

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

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 2321 S.D. 2** requiring a minimum of eight hours of domestic violence specific education for first responders. Given the costs of not intervening in domestic violence, minimal expenditures are required in agency dollars.

My testimony is on behalf of the 442 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 S.B. 2321 S.D. 2 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” (S.B. 2321, S.D. 2, p. 1, 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 S.B. 2321 S.D. 2 is an important step in improving *uniform, empathetic, and responsive* 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

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:15 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2321 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM

SB2321

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members, As in previous testimony, we are in strong support of this measure. It is common sense that those tasked with the protection of the public should be trained. With respect to victims of domestic violence, law enforcement in particular, is sadly lacking in appropriate training. Please pass this bill, Mahalo, Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

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Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:43 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: fawnjade712@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2321 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2321

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fawn Jade Koopman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 4:43 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: lalehk@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2321 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM

SB2321

Submitted on: 3/11/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laleh kazemahvazi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our community needs more education on how to keep victims of domestic violence safe. I support this bill

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:01 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2321 on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2321

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HUS on Mar 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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