

# SCR132/SR97

Measure Title: 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.

Report Title: Discrimination; Women; State; Counties

Description:

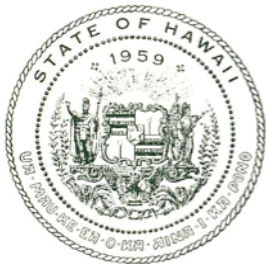
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: GVO/PSM, JDL

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, ESPERO, Kim

HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA  
CYD HOFFELD  
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March 21, 2016

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs

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

Re: Testimony in Support SCR 132/SR 97

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. Earlier this year, Honolulu County became the first county in the state to pass CEDAW legislation.

Although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality, women in Hawaii 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, women and girls in Hawaii 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 women and girls in Hawaii.

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 call 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.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR132 on Mar 22, 2016 14:50PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 11:54:11 AM

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**SCR132**

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for GVO/PSM on Mar 22, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

**Comments:**

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o'ahu

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To: Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

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

Re: Testimony of in support of SCR132/SR97 – 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, 2:50 P.M. - Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 414

Good afternoon Chair Kim, Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee on Government Operations and Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs. On behalf of YWCA O'ahu we thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in **strong support of SCR132 and SR97**, 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 SCR132 and SR97. 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.

YWCA O'ahu 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. YWCA 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 your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



March 20, 2016

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Government Operations, and the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 (2:50 p.m.)

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 414

Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women – Hawaii in support of S.R. 97, 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

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim (Chair), Senator Clarence K. Nishihara (Chair), Senator Les Ihara, Jr. (Vice Chair), Senator Will Espero (Vice Chair), and Members of the Committees,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.R. 97**, 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 (CEDAW).

My testimony is on behalf of the 442 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawaii. AAUW has focused on equality for women since 1881. S.R. 97 reminds us that CEDAW “is the only human rights treaty focused on women’s rights” (lines 11-12), and as such, honoring this treaty has special significance for women in Hawaii.

Women number approximately half the population in Hawaii, but are under-represented in many important socio-economic spheres here. For example, “women hold 27.6% of seats in the state legislature;” “women ... will not see equal pay until 2051;” “women own only 31% of businesses in the state;” etc. (Institute for Women’s Policy Research [2015] “Status of Women in Hawaii”). It is time to examine seriously the situation of women in this state, and a good first step is to become more aware of the CEDAW principles. In conclusion, passage of S.R. 97 is an important step toward a more CEDAW-aware and compliant state and county government for the good of half the population, currently under-represented in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR132 on Mar 22, 2016 14:50PM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 11:52:30 AM

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**SCR132**

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for GVO/PSM on Mar 22, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Callahan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Request all state departments and counties affirm their support of tenets of CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Girls).

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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