

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



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April 3, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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. The Commission is willing and able to work with state agencies and the counties to create a gender analysis framework. The Commission supports these resolutions and urges their passage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR97 on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM*
Date: Friday, April 01, 2016 4:33:18 PM

SR97

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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SR97

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SR97

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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