

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
Khara Jabola-Carolus

Email: kjabola-carolus@dhs.hawaii.gov

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

March 28, 2018

To: Sen. Taniguchi, Chair
Sen. Rhoads, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the S. Committee on Judiciary

From: Khara Jabola-Carolus
Executive Director
Hawai`i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, HB2133, HD1

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2133 HD1, which amends HRS §52D, the statute that covers internal investigations within HPD, to allow a citizen to file a non-notarized complaint against a police officer for internal investigation purposes. This legislation represents a critically important step toward addressing the larger problem of the department's mishandling of abuse by police officers.

The Commission notes that sex discrimination including sexual assault and domestic violence continues to be trivialized within the Honolulu Police Department. The problem is pervasive and persistent, and HPD has not demonstrated a commitment in minimizing domestic abuse by officers. One-third of the constituent complaints fielded in 2018 by the Commission involved a police officer as the abuser. Given the heightened power held by police officers and ease with which officers may abuse that power, the Commission believes it essential to remove any obstacles that prevent family or household member victims of police officers from reporting abuse in order for an internal investigation to proceed.

The Commission supports HB2133 and urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



March 29, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 2133 HD1 Relating to Police Departments
Hearing: Thursday, March 29, 2018, 9:30 a.m., Room 016

POSITION: Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of HB 2133 HD1 Relating to Police Departments which would specify that citizen complaints against a police officer that involve allegations of domestic abuse against a family or household member on the part of the police officer shall not be required to be in writing or sworn to by the complainant.

There have been high profile domestic violence cases involving police officers. These cases make it apparent that new policies need to be implemented when police officers are involved. The requirement that the complaint be in writing or sworn to by the complainant is used to deter victims from filing complaints or the victim is told that she must return when a notary is available to notarize the statement. These requirements re-victimize the victim and make it appear that her complaint will have a higher bar to overcome than those of domestic violence victims whose partners are not police officers. Victims are already reluctant to file complaints against their spouses who are officers.

This measure is a good start to improve how officer-involved domestic violence cases are handled. We respectfully request that the committee pass this measure and we thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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.

HB-2133-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 3:58:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2133 HD1** relating to County Police Departments; Police Officers; Citizen Complaints; and Officer-involved Domestic Violence.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2133 HD1** and support its passage.

HB2133 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it specifies that citizen complaints against a police officer that involve allegations of domestic abuse by the police officer against a family or household member shall not be required to be filed as a notarized or sworn written statement.

The DPH Platform states that "We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to equal access to reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378384 (2016)).

We support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society. Likewise we support opportunities for those who have been incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community and make available health, educational, and other assistance programs needed to allow them to become productive and respected members of the community." (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 273-277 (2016)).

Given that **HB2133 HD1** specifies that citizen complaints against a police officer that involve allegations of domestic abuse by the police officer against a family or

household member shall not be required to be filed as a notarized or sworn written statement, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2133-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 10:22:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-2133-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 7:45:46 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: