

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CHRISTOPHER D.W. YOUNG
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai`i**

February 3, 2017

RE: H.B. 679; RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and members of the House Committee on Human Services, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 679.

The purpose of H.B. 679 is to ensure that first responders are able to recognize the various signs associated with domestic violence, and are properly equipped with the right tools to handle the myriad of domestic violence situations that will likely encounter in the course of their duties. Our Department agrees that domestic violence is an epidemic that does not discriminate between age, economic status, gender or race and our goals and objectives are in line with the intent of H.B. 679. However, this bill would mandate a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of training regarding domestic abuse intervention without the proper allocation of funds to facilitate such training, thereby making it nearly impossible to implement.

Although H.B. 679 has good intentions, requiring mandatory training creates a financial burden for large agencies to comply, without proper funding. In addition, the lack of specificity regarding when a job duty "requires or may require" intervention may lead to a wide range of interpretations by various agencies, which could lead to unintended non-compliance.

For all of the reasons stated above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes H.B. 679. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney

Jennifer S. Winn
First Deputy



Rebecca Vogt Like
Second Deputy

Diana Gausepohl-White
Victim/Witness Program Director

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758
Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 679

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON INTRASTATE COMMERCE

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2017, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chairs Morikawa and Ohno, Vice-Chairs Todd and Choy, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Intrastate Commerce, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill 679.

This measure requires any state or county agency to provide domestic abuse intervention training to their personnel whose job duties require or may require intervention in a domestic abuse situation.

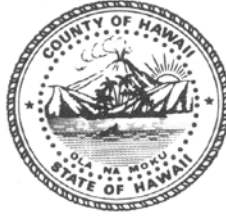
Over the years, many first responders have indicated that one of the most important needs they have is the ability to have proper training when it comes to working with victims of domestic violence.

During the 2015-2016 Fiscal year, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i processed 354 domestic violence cases. Having proper training will enable, equip and enhance Hawaii's first responders with the necessary tools and skills crucial to effectively deal with complex situations of domestic violence. Proper training would assist first responders in providing that crucial first step in the families of domestic violence to breaking the cycle of abuse.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 679. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KĪLAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908
(808) 934-3403
(808) 934-3503

WEST HAWAII UNIT
81-980 HALEKI'I ST, SUITE 150
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 679

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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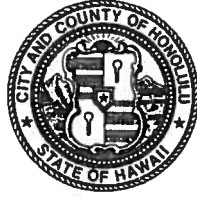
During the 2016 Family Violence Summit in Hilo, Hawai'i, first responders stated that one of the most important needs they have is the ability to have proper training when it comes to working with victims of domestic violence.

During the 2015-2016 Fiscal year, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i serviced 1,452 victims of domestic violence. Having proper training will enable, equip and enhance Hawaii's first responders with the necessary tools and skills crucial to effectively deal with complex situations of domestic violence. Proper training would assist first responders in providing that crucial first step in the families of domestic violence to breaking the cycle of abuse.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 679. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

CARY OKIMOTO
JERRY INOUE
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **WO-NTK**

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Morikawa and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 679, Relating to Domestic Violence

I am Walter Ozeki, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 679, Relating to Domestic Violence.

The HPD recognizes the importance of domestic violence intervention training in protecting those who are exposed or may be exposed to domestic violence. We are in support of additional training for state and county employees who act as interveners in situations of domestic violence. However, it is our belief that the training could be adequately covered in a minimum of eight hours and would recommend that on page 2, line 14 and page 3, line 8 be amended to read "with a minimum of eight hours of training."

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 679, Relating to Domestic Violence, with the proposed amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cary Okimoto", written over a horizontal line.

Cary Okimoto
Acting Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Walter Ozeki", written in a cursive style.

Walter Ozeki, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

To: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee Human Services

From: Marci Lopes, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
DATE/LOCATION: Friday, February 3, 2017; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Re: Testimony in Support, HB 679 Relating to Domestic Violence

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 679** relating to domestic violence training. The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) is a statewide partnership of 25 domestic violence programs and shelter providers across our Hawaiian Islands. We would like to thank you all for your ongoing efforts to work towards ensuring victims of domestic violence in Hawaii are safe.

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. **HB 679** 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.

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.

Respectfully,



Marci Lopes
Executive Director

mlopes@hscadv.org

~ Together we can do amazing things ~



TO: Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Friday, February 3, 2017; 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 679 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I strongly urge you to support HB 679 – Relating to Domestic Violence. We support this bill which would 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.** Domestic violence has significant impacts to children survivors as well and early identification is critical. Training school personnel will provide a better chance for proper intervention that will positively impact the child's health and school success. 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 HB 679**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 2, 2017

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB679 relating to domestic violence training

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd and members,

The Coalition is in strong support of this bill, which would require any state, or county agency that employs personnel whose job duties require or may require intervention in a domestic abuse situation to have a minimum of 15 hours of training regarding domestic abuse intervention.

In recent years we have been regaled with too many stories from victims of domestic violence of neglect and further abuse from public officials whose job it is to protect them. These stories have come directly from victims, but have also been reported in the press.

In legislative hearings it was disclosed that, in HPD in particular, training in how to handle cases of domestic violence was minimal and inadequate. Although the Department has taken steps to get more training, we feel that given the severity and prevalence of this blight upon our State, 15 hours for those state and county officials who may be in a position to help, is a small ask. This is the ounce of prevention that will go a long way in stopping the cycle of domestic violence, saving lives and taxpayer dollars in the process.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676

HUStestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:57 PM
To: HUStestimony
Cc: tsymons.uluwini@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB679 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM

HB679

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons- HAPI	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STRONG Support!!!

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



LATE

TO: Chair Ohno
Vice Chair Choy
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

RE: HB 679 Support

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. 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, who is 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 HB 679.

