



February 13, 2017

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 516 – Relating to Domestic Violence**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016, February 14, 2017, 9:00 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 516 – Relating to Domestic Violence.**

After suffering from domestic or sexual violence, often victims or the parent of the victim needs to attend to legal, medical, and emotional issues. By amending the current law, this bill would provide victims the ability to retain their sick leave and other earned leave, while utilizing victims or family leave. This provides an important option to victims so that they can retain leave for future needs.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee PASS this bill.**

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** JDL Testimony  
**Cc:** [mlopes@hscadv.org](mailto:mlopes@hscadv.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB516 on Feb 14, 2017 09:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2017 7:22:39 PM

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**SB516**

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 14, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marci Lopes	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for your ongoing advocacy for domestic violence victims.

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 Women's Coalition

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**  
**Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 016

**Comments on SB516 that allows an employee to take family leave in addition to victim leave when the leave is related to domestic or sexual violence against the employee or the employee's minor child. Requires an employee to submit certification related to domestic or sexual violence of the employee or the employee's minor child, etc.**

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and members

**The Coalition supports this bill that would offer much needed relief to victims of violence against women and Children.** While we would prefer more comprehensive family leave legislation this is a welcome move in the right direction. The consequences of family violence are far-reaching and include emotional, financial and medical impacts not only to the individual family but to the larger community.

A comprehensive bill would include:

- Universal paid family leave--- all employees pay in, and all employees can take out.
- A broad definition of family to encompass the changing demographics of Hawaii's families.
- Wage replacement program for caregivers. More progressive wage replacement for lower income workers is preferred in order for low-income workers to actually be able to utilize the leave.
- A cap on wage replacement so higher income workers do not exhaust the fund.
- At least 12 weeks in duration. Biological mothers should not be barred from also using TDI.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition  
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