



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 129, S.D. 1
MAKING REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO EXAMINE HOW A STATEWIDE USE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ASSESSMENTS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PERSONNEL CAN HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE'S OVERALL RESPONSE TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: April 12, 2018 10:00am

Room Number: 329

1

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Funds for air travel transportation costs for neighbor island task force
3 members to participate in meetings would be needed.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports S.C.R 129, S.D. 1. Domestic
5 violence, also known as intimate partner violence, continues to be a public health problem
6 affecting millions of Americans each year. Survey findings from the “Findings from the
7 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2010-2012)” underscore the heavy toll of
8 this violence, the young age at which people often experience violence, and the negative health
9 conditions associated with these forms of violence.

10 Many times Emergency Medical Services personnel are the first health care providers domestic
11 violence victims encounter. Often these individuals may not be prepared to deal with their
12 situation, therefore early identification and support is critical. Enabling pre-hospital providers
13 with a standardized approach to these victims can provide the necessary links to important
14 community resources such as crisis intervention, safe housing and early behavioral health care.
15 In addition to the medical evaluation, early reporting of these incidents to authorities is
16 necessary. This resolution seeks to have the Department of Health convene a statewide task
17 force to evaluate rapid identification and reporting of domestic violence situations. Making EMS
18 a part of this process is the first step to the domestic violence victim’s recovery.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 10, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services
House of Representatives
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

Re: SCR129, SD1 Relating to Domestic Violence

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department is in support of SCR129, SD1.

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department provides both ocean safety and emergency medical services (EMS) for the City and County of Honolulu.

As the contracted provider for EMS services to the State Department of Health, our department supports this effort to identify and ensure proper interventions and reporting of incidences of domestic violence that are witnessed by our medical staff during the course of their call-responses.

We look forward to working with all parties involved to address this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Howe, Jr.", is written over a circular stamp. The signature is stylized and overlaps the stamp.

James D. Howe, Jr.
Director

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 2018

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

Dear Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rieko Nieto; I am a student of Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a survivor of domestic violence. I support the bill, Domestic Violence Assessments, and Response Protocol, SCR129 SD1.

Over the past 40 years, domestic violence (DV) has become a serious social problem in the United States. About 35% of women face DV at least one time in their lifetime. According to The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2010) indicated that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience domestic violence from their partner in their lifetime. The percentage will be increased if the number of the victims who hide their DV situations is included.

Emergency medical services personnel is the first responder as well as personnel in an emergency department at the hospital to address DV incidents. In my case, I went to the emergency room when I injured by DV. However, I couldn't disclose my DV situation because my perpetrator was next to me. I was not assessed by anyone to address DV. I went back to DV relationship after discharge from the hospital because I had no other choice. There are still ongoing issues such as discomfort to use the assessment tools or not enough time to assess during the initial visit or response.

I believe that including members from DV advocacy organizations and survivors and parents of survivors of domestic violence to this task force is critical to assess the problems. Examining issues relevant to the implementation of domestic violence assessments and response protocol help the victims of DV as well as help to provide urgent interventions by Emergency medical services personnel. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rieko Nieto
The University of Hawaii at Manoa
rieko73@hawaii.edu

SCR-129-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 3:29:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-129-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 10:40:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; to the Honorable Bertrand Kobayahsi, Vice Chair; and the Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR129 SD1** relating to domestic violence assessments and response protocol by emergency medical services personnel.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SCR129 SD1** and strongly supports its passage.

SCR129 SD1 is in accord with the Democratic Platform as it requests the Department of Health to convene a task force to examine how a statewide use of domestic violence assessments and response protocol by emergency medical services personnel can help to strengthen the State's overall response to domestic violence.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e 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.4, Lines 170-172 (2016)).

Given that **SCR129 SD1** requests the Department of Health to convene a task force to examine how a statewide use of domestic violence assessments and response protocol by emergency medical services personnel can help to strengthen the State's overall response to domestic violence, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to strongly support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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

SCR-129-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 5:29:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SCR-129-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 6:19:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	No

Comments: