

March 21, 2019

House's Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, March 22, 2019 – 2:10 p.m.

RE: **OPPOSITION to HCR 69/HR 69** – URGING THE HOLY SEE, THE SUPREME PONTIFF, AND THE BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO EXPLORE THE WIDESPREAD ADOPTION OF VIRI PROBATI, OR THE ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF CERTAIN QUALIFIED MARRIED MEN

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in OPPOSITION of HCR 69/HR 69 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

The LGBT Caucus opposes this resolution for the following three reason:

First is that as Democrats we believe in the constitutional mandate of separation of State and church. The government should not be suggesting to any religious institution how they practice their beliefs except in the case if they are endangering others and/or violating the law.

Second is that is simplistic at best to believe that by allowing priests to marry will stem the tide of the rampant systematic raping of keiki by priests. This epidemic was exposed by Spotlight of the Boston Globe, the investigation of Pennsylvania's Attorney General's Office and other such investigations. In it should be noted that West Virginia filed a lawsuit this week against the Roman Catholic Church alleging that they knowingly employed pedophiles. If this body wants to address this devastating epidemic then we respectfully request your committee support Senate Concurrent Resolution 8 when it hopefully crosses over from the Senate.

Third reason is the undercurrent of homophobia in this resolution. Given the language that appears in the proposed resolution specifically we are referring to the phrase 'certain qualified married men'. As we all know that the Roman Catholic Church is extremely opposed to allowing gay men to marry or to even have equal rights. This resolution appears to be buying into the Vatican's completely false deflection that homosexuality is the source of this epidemic and not child sexual assault by their priests and covered up by the Roman Catholic Church.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition and the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i humbly asks that you to defer HCR 69/HR 69.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

LATE

HCR-69

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 9:29:34 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/22/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rainbow	Rainbow Family 808	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Hawai'i is NOT A CHURCH STATE. HCR 69 is a violation of the 1st Amendment and our Separation of State and Church. This should have never been brought up to the legislature in the first place because of these two serious violations.

COMMENTS ON HCR 69
House Judiciary Committee
March 22, 2019 (2:10 PM)

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

With the understanding that, if passed, this resolution would be summarily ignored by the Vatican and its subordinates, the proposed measure to encourage the ordination of already married priests likely does not reflect the type of fundamental change that is required given the gravity of longstanding abuses of power, sexual and otherwise.

The Vatican continues to adhere to specious doctrinal views on women and sexuality that are untethered to reality. These views provide an epistemological foundation for the institutionalized dehumanization of women and sexual minorities under law. As such, they have been the font of needless suffering and death for almost two millennia in Western Christendom and those indigenous nations and cultures across the globe that have been dispossessed or otherwise impacted by Western Christendom. This perpetuation of harm directly contravenes the core teachings of the Christian gospels. That Christ's teachings have been cited and interpreted to lend moral sanction to the capricious and sadistic exercise of worldly power is lamentable, whatever one's sectarian affiliation or lack thereof.

In short, the Vatican should look to mainline Protestant denominations for ways to welcome women and sexual minorities as full and co-equal partners in the life of its church. It is a reconciliation that is much needed and long overdue.

Sincerely,
Nikos Leverenz

"May all beings be free from inner and outer harm. May they be safe and protected. May they be happy. May they be healthy and strong. May they be able to live in this world happily, peacefully, joyfully, and with ease."

HCR-69

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 3:50:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/22/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I suggest that whomever introduced this reso read the US Constitution. The legislature has no right to interfere in religious issues. How this ever was scheduled for a hearing is a travesty and a waste of time and resources.

HCR-69

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 12:20:33 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/22/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Only the Church can make this Decsion. That is why the State can not tell WallMart who should mange and who should be the workers. This would be Dictatorship!!

HCR-69

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 3:21:25 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/22/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is obvious government over reach ... and definitely not in the legislature's area of expertise. Church policy does not infringe on the rights of others. There is no right to be a priest. Do not pass HCR69. This proposal is in direct opposition to constitutional rights regarding religious liberty.

HCR-69

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 10:06:09 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/22/2019 2:10:00 PM

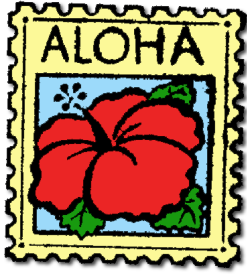
LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HCR69. It is the legislature's job in this state to ask for an investigation by the AG's office about sexual abuse of priests and other church officials and not to tell a church how to select their clergy. Please do not pass this resolution.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.



Holly J. Huber

hollyjhuber@gmail.com

LATE

House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing on March 22, 2019 @ 2:10 PM in Conference Room 325

HCR 69 URGING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO EXPLORE VIRI PROBATI

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION

March 22, 2019

Aloha Representatives:

This Resolution should not be given a hearing by this committee nor should it be referred to the House Committee on Finance!

HCR 69 is a violation of the separation of state and church. The Hawaii State Legislature cannot be involved in religious doctrine or practices.

HCR 69 is also highly offensive in that it proposes "the ordination of certain qualified married men" as a solution to the sexual abuse of minors by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church. Homosexuality is neither the problem nor the cause of child sex abuse in the church.

Instead, the House of Representatives should be resolved to investigate the Catholic Church's tradition of shuffling pedophile priests from church to church, diocese to diocese, state to state.

The House should be passing a resolution to investigate the criminal behavior of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu in enabling and covering up child sex abuse.

This resolution should be gutted and replaced with language from SCR 8 which urges the Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General to conduct a statewide investigation of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and the church leaders who protected the offenders.

Please vote "NO" on HCR 69; support a statewide investigation instead.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII BY CLERGY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

WHEREAS, the findings in civil and criminal cases and reports across the United States, including in Hawai'i, indicate that the Roman Catholic Church engaged in a decades-long pattern of moving clergy who sexually abused children within and between Dioceses, within and between states, and within and between countries, and of hiding, withholding, or otherwise failing to disclose documentation and other evidence of child sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, a recent Pennsylvania grand jury report detailed the abuse of more than 1,000 children by hundreds of priests over decades, including at least one priest who was relocated from Pennsylvania to Hawai'i and later admitted abusing at least twenty children in the diocese in Erie, Pennsylvania, and then in the diocese in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by two law firms in Hawai'i detailed an additional fifty-eight Catholic clergy members who allegedly committed child sexual abuse in Hawai'i, including recent allegations; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse has severe and devastating physical, emotional, social, and financial consequences for victims, their families, and their communities, which can last throughout a victim's lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Attorneys General and other state authorities across the United States are investigating sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy based on the findings of the Pennsylvania grand jury report, including in Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, there may be cases of child sexual abuse committed by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i that are within criminal and civil statutes of limitation, which can be tolled under the law in specific circumstances, such as when offenders are not physically present in the State of Hawai'i or are incarcerated on other charges; and

WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Honolulu, also known formally as the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, comprises all of the Hawaiian Islands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i State Department of the Attorney General is urged to conduct a statewide investigation of sexual abuse of minors in the State of Hawai'i by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to submit a report on the status of its investigation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2020, 2021, and 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General.

OFFERED BY: _____

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 904

Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: S.C.R. No. 8

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Human Services and Judiciary, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 8 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII BY CLERGY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General to conduct a statewide investigation of sexual abuse of minors in the State of Hawaii by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from The Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Hawaii Women's Coalition, LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and four individuals. Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii Diocese of Honolulu.

Your Committees find that court cases and reports across the United States, including in Hawaii, indicate that the Roman Catholic Church engaged in a decades-long pattern of moving clergy who sexually abused children within and between jurisdictions and of hiding, withholding, or otherwise failing to disclose documentation and other evidence of child sexual abuse. A recent Pennsylvania grand jury report detailed the abuse of more than one thousand children by approximately three hundred priests over decades. Sixteen Attorneys General across the United States are investigating sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy based on the findings of the Pennsylvania grand jury report. A 2018 report by Jeff Anderson and Associates PA and the Law Office of Mark Gallagher identified at least fifty-eight Catholic clergy members who allegedly committed child sexual abuse in Hawaii.

Your Committees further find that child sexual abuse has severe and devastating physical, emotional, social, and financial consequences for victims, their families, and their communities, which can last throughout a victim's lifetime. As such, your Committees find that the Department of the Attorney General should conduct a statewide investigation of sexual abuse of minors in the State by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church to flush out the offenders and protect Hawaii's children.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 8 and recommend that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members
of the Committees on Human Services and
Judiciary,

KARL RHOADS, Chair

RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, Chair

HCR-69

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 1:27:47 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/22/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miguel Rivera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of

HR69 and HCR69

Judiciary Committee Hearing on

March 22, 2019 2:10 PM

in CR 325

To JUD Chair Chris Lee and members of the JUD committee.

Good Afternoon, Chair Chris Lee and members of the JUD committee.

Hello, I am Miguel Rivera and I am a devout Catholic in strong support of HR 69 and HCR 69 Urging the Holy see, the Supreme pontiff, and the Bishops of the catholic church to explore the widespread adoption of viri probati, or the ordination to the priesthood of certain qualified married men.

The right to marry and the right to have children and a family is a basic human right in today's society. Gone are the dark ages and medieval days where the imperial (Emperors) and celestial (Church) power is absolute and the rights of the common man and servants or workers are abused and denied basics human rights to marry and have a family.

The servants of the Imperial Court in China were required to be castrated and became Eunuchs in order to serve in the imperial household. The clergy of the Holy Roman Empire (back in the dark ages) were required to vow to be Celibate and NOT marry or have children but instead devote all the time, energy and efforts to the boss, the church and the Pope, who was considered infallible.

This kind of denial of basics human rights from the dark ages in no longer appropriate and can not be accepted in our democratic society where the individual rights every citizen must be recognized and protected as all men are created equal under our constitution.

This resolution will make our community safer for our residents and church goers and their children who are raised in the church. Often, celibate and oppressed and sexual suppressed clergy will target children in the Church like altar boys and pages.

Catholic priests will communicate and relate much better with the Catholic parishioners if they also are married and have families and are replenishing the earth just like their church goers.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in **Support** for HR69 and HCR69
Judiciary Hearing in room 325, on March 22, 2019 2:10PM

To the Judiciary committee chair Chris Lee and committee members. Hello, my name is Darla Camacho, I am wiring the testimony in SUPPORT for HR69, HCR69. I think this resolution is a great idea and will make our community safer for our children. I believe children are targeted because they are easy vulnerable and easily silenced by intimidation. Priest that molest children don't start as a pedophile but slowly become that way due to years of sexual suppression. Priest are humans with emotions and urges, just like us, but are forced to suppress them due to their belief. People who don't sexually suppress their urges cannot understand the mental torment these priests are subjected to over many years and inevitably they turn to child molestation since, in many cases, that is their only real option due to the children's inability and immaturity to protect themselves and realize what is happening to them. I'm sure this resolution won't fix all the problems with pedophilic priest, but it will lower the number of incidents that occur in the future. Please pass this resolution because it is a step in the right direction to solving this issue, so we can make the world a safer place.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support for HR69 and HCR69
Judiciary Hearing in room 325, on March 22, 2019 2:10PM

To the Judiciary Committee chair Chris Lee and committee members.

Hello, my name is Marky Manabat, I am wiring the testimony in SUPPORT for HR69, HCR69. I think this resolution is a great idea and will make our community safer for our children. I believe children are targeted because they are easy vulnerable and easily silenced by intimidation. Priest that molest children don't start as a pedophile but slowly become that way due to years of sexual suppression. Priest are humans with emotions and urges, just like us, but are forced to suppress them due to their belief. People who don't sexually suppress their urges cannot understand the mental torment these priests are subjected to over many years and inevitably they turn to child molestation since, in many cases, that is their only real option due to the children's inability and immaturity to protect themselves and realize what is happening to them. I'm sure this resolution won't fix all the problems with pedophilic priest, but it will lower the number of incidents that occur in the future. Please pass this resolution because it is a step in the right direction to solving this issue, so we can make the world a safer place. Thank you for your time.