



## HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

April 3, 2022

TO: **Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair & Pat McManaman, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: **HCR112, HD1 and HR122, HD1**

HEARING: April 5, 2022 at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights stands in **Strong Support of HCR112, HD1, and HR122, HD1** which propose to provide outreach and information to abused immigrant women through a collaboration between the State Commission on the Status of Women, the Domestic Violence Action Center, and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i.

In concert with our partners, we recommend the Resolutions be amended to create a Task Force to include the Domestic Violence Action Center, Consulate General of the Philippines, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, The Legal Clinic, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, and other chambers of commerce in Hawaii, as appropriate, to evaluate previous strategic plans from a culturally competent and gender-responsive lens and develop and implement an outreach program aimed at informing domestic violence victims of various sources of assistance, including placement of posters and signage in various languages in discreet areas.

In engaging battered immigrants, we also recommend that the Task Force be encouraged to develop a plan for language equity. Engaging battered immigrant women in their communities and their languages is a critical first step in ending immigrant domestic violence. In addition to

multilingual posters and signage, the collaborative organizations may wish to provide multilingual digital access to information and resources on their websites. Often, a cell phone is the sole link a battered woman may have to seek information, help, and assistance. Confronting English-only information may dissuade her from making further contact.

Finally, there is a critical need to restore state-wide training for community health care providers, community-based organizations, state and local government workers, and others on the unique barriers confronting abused immigrant women and available immigration legal remedies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.