



**‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

**Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**

Support for SCR133/SR177 SD1

April 21, 2022

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports SCR 133/SR177 SD1.**

The Commission takes the position that this project is urgently needed and that a formal taskforce should be created. The Commission supports the creation of a *Task Force to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women*.

It has been long known that Filipino women represent nearly one-third (28.9%) of all domestic violence victims in Hawai‘i. Filipino women are also much more likely to be fatal victims of domestic violence compared to Native Hawaiian and Japanese women relative to their proportions in the population.¹ More still, almost 10% of domestic violence victims speak Filipino as their first language.

Results from *Hawaii domestic violence fatality review 2000-2009* found that, “It is possible that tolerance for domestic violence is influenced by socio-cultural factors and length of immigration and acculturation,” but cited an outsider of our Filipino culture (David Joel Steinberg) who was only able to provide a superficial, gender-blind analysis: “Personalism, smooth interpersonal relationships, and hierarchical structures are safety lids for the Philippine society. Filipinos are both friendly and tolerant, but the society also tolerates moments of violence. To run amok is an understandable behavior if an individual has been wronged or provoked sufficiently. Crimes of passion abound and revenge is, in Philippine terms, often an acceptable explanation of criminal behavior. Temporary, explosive anger at a personal affront is a way Filipinos expresses existential rage. Political violence, especially just prior to elections, is widely accepted and usually unpunished.”

¹ Pobutsky, Ann et al. “Results from the Hawaii domestic violence fatality review, 2000-2009.” *Journal of injury & violence research* vol. 6,2 (2014): 79-90. doi:10.5249/jivr.v6i2.473

We need a special taskforce led for and by Filipino women to address this deadly tragedy afflicting our community.

Please pass SCR133 SD1.

Mahalo,
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

SCR-133-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/19/2022 6:32:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| nanci kreidman | domestic violence action center | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Outreach and collaboration are imperative for serving those suffering the harm of domestic violence. We will gladly participate.

mahalo for your favorable action.



HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

April 19, 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: **SCR133, SD1**

HEARING: April 21, 2022 at 1:30 PM
Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights stands in **Strong Support of SCR133, SD1** which proposes 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 Resolution 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.



HAWAI'I STATE
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

April 21, 2022

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

Chair Mark M. Nakashima
Vice Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura
Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Gene Ward

Re: SCR133 Relating to urging the State Commission on the Status of Women to work with the Domestic Violence Action Center, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce in Hawai'i, and other chambers of commerce of Hawai'i, as appropriate, to develop and implement an outreach program aimed at informing domestic violence victims of available resources for assistance

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) advances the safety and healing of victims, survivors and their families. We are the collective voice of a diverse network of organizations and individuals, working to eliminate all forms of domestic violence in Hawai'i by fostering partnership, increasing awareness of domestic violence, developing the capacity of our member programs and community partners to address the needs of survivors and their families, and advocating for social justice and change.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 25 member programs statewide, we support this measure. Filipino women represent nearly one-third (28.9%) of all domestic violence victims in Hawai'i and are much more likely to be fatal victims of domestic violence compared to Native Hawaiian and Japanese women relative to their proportions in the population. In addition, almost 10% of domestic violence victims speak Filipino/Tagalog as their first language, illustrating the importance of providing information in Filipino languages that victims understand ([Results from the Hawaii domestic violence fatality review, 2000-2009](#)).

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

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado
Executive Director, HSCADV

SCR-133-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/19/2022 6:37:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alani Bagcal | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Alani Bagcal and I strongly support the passing of SCR133. As a community, we need to acknowledge that Filipino women represent nearly one-third (28.9%) of all domestic violence victims in Hawai'i. Filipino women are also much more likely to be fatal victims of domestic violence compared to Native Hawaiian and Japanese women relative to their proportions in the population.

We need this taskforce, led by Filipino women to organize resources in Filipino languages to assist victims in need of help and more. Please pass SCR133.

Thank you,

Alani Bagcal

96815

SCR-133-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/19/2022 9:31:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Keawe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support

SCR-133-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 12:54:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edith | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair and Vice Chair - I support SCR133.

Mahalo,

E. Ignacio Neumiller

SCR-133-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 1:37:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/21/2022 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ashley Galacgac | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Growing up in Hawai‘i as a daughter of Filipino (im)migrants, I know many who have either experienced or witnessed violence against women at home. Filipino women represent nearly one-third (28.9%) of all domestic violence victims in Hawai‘i. Filipino women are also much more likely to be fatal victims of domestic violence compared to Native Hawaiian and Japanese women, relative to their proportions in the population.

Unfortunately, the data does not surprise me, however, we need action to address this insidious problem that impacts everyone. This violence did not always exist in our community and culture. Stressors of migration and ongoing economic hardship in Hawai‘i are factors in creating the extremely difficult conditions in which violence manifests. When abusers inflict violence against women, the culture of silence has protected abusers and allowed for this unacceptable treatment of women to continue. Survivors are not to be blamed for doing what they need to do to survive and endure and yet, the onus remains on all of us to take deliberate, principled, and collective action. It will take each of us to break this generational cycle, begin to heal those harmed, and ensure future generations will no longer normalize domestic violence.

This project is urgently needed and warrants a formal taskforce: the *Task Force to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women*. Lived experiences can inform solutions to address this issue within the Filipino community. We need a special taskforce led for and by Filipino women. It’s notable that 10% of domestic violence victims speak Filipino as their first language, so navigating systems as an English language learner often contributes to the difficulties to accessing services.

I ask that the Committee pass SCR133 the **requested amendments**:

1. Create a formal Taskforce to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the House of Representatives concurring, that the State Commission on the Status of Women is to **work create the Task Force to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women**

2. Extend the report deadline to 2024 to allow for sufficient time to investigate the issue and develop a plan to combat domestic violence in the Filipino community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Commission on the Status of Women is requested to submit a report of its progress in the development and implementation of the outreach program, findings and recommendations, and proposed legislation if any, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of **2023 2024**

Thank the opportunity to express my strong support for this measure. **Please pass SCR 133.**