



TO: Chair San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr.  
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.  
Chief Executive Officer

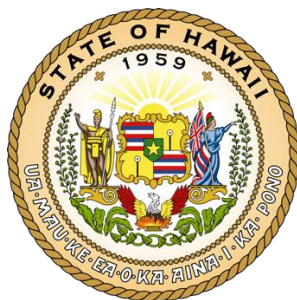
Re: Testimony in Support of SCR133

We offer this testimony in support of SCR133, urging collaboration between the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce in Hawai'i, and other chambers of commerce of Hawai'i in developing and implementing an outreach program aimed at informing domestic violence victims of various sources of assistance.

The Domestic Violence Action Center provides unique and culturally responsive program services to meet the needs of survivors. Pacific Islander, Asian and immigrant communities experience domestic violence at much higher rates than the general population. Our work is tailored to support these communities who are facing enormous challenges.

Collaborative outreach is an excellent way to inform the community that there are ways to get free and safe, there are available community programs and the needs of our communities with unique challenges can be assured that no one deserves to be harmed.

Thank you for giving this your greatest consideration. We look forward to favorable action.



**‘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 with Amendments for SCR133/SR177**

Dear Chairs Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Ihara and Keohokalole, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports the intent of this measure and **requests amendments to strengthen SCR 133/SR177.**

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 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.<sup>1</sup> Filipinas are nearly one-third (28.9%) of all fatal domestic violence victims in Hawai‘i. More still, nearly 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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

existential rage. Political violence, especially just prior to elections, is widely accepted and usually unpunished.”

We need a special taskforce led for and by Filipino women to address this deadly tragedy afflicting our community and currently, but not eternally, embedded in our culture.

**Requested Amendment:**

1. Create a formal Taskforce to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women. Add additional stakeholders. Amend duties. Target the entire Filipino community, not only victims.

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** with 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~~ **the Filipino community** of various sources of assistance, including placement of posters and signage in various languages in discreet areas; and

2. Extend the report deadline to 2024.

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**

The Commission on the Status of Women lost 20% of its funding during the 2021 Legislative Session and only has one staff member who is able to perform substantive tasks. CSW and OHA currently chair the multi-year MMIWG Task Force legislatively created through HCR11 (2021), which was not appropriate any funding from the Legislature and has cost \$50,000 to implement so far. Already stretched to its fiscal and staff capacity, CSW would not be able to “*implement an outreach program*” as requested in the original language of this resolution. We ask that the Committee either amend this language or attach a small amount of funding to this project.

Mahalo,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director



## HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

March 30, 2022

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair Committee on Human Services  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **SCR 133 and SR 117**

HEARING: March 31, 2022 at 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights stands in **Strong Support of SCR 133 and SR 117** which propose a collaboration between the State Commission on the Status of Women, the Domestic Violence Action Center, and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i to provide outreach and information to abused immigrant women.

Immigrant women often feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, and lack of financial resources. Abusers often use their partners' immigration status as a tool of control. In such situations, it is common for a batterer to exert control over his partner's immigration status to force her to remain in the relationship.

Immigrant women often suffer higher rates of battering than U.S. citizens because they may come from cultures that accept domestic violence or because they have less access to legal and social services than U.S. citizens. Additionally, many immigrant victims may believe that the protections of the U.S. legal system do not apply to them.

Engaging battered immigrant women in their communities and their languages is a critical first step in ending immigrant domestic violence. In addition to posters and signage, these collaborative organizations are encouraged to provide 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 reaching out.

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

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:52:07 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosa Joaquin	Testifying for FAUW	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members,

I fully support Bill SCR133/SR177 and the ammendments to strenghten it. Now, more than ever, we stand for justice for the Filipino Women who were abused and hope to put an end to it. I stand by the efforts of our legislators in fighting for this cause.

Respectfully yours,

ROSA "BING" NOEL JOAQUIN

President, Filipino Association of University Women



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir  
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

### **SUPPORT on SCR133**

<b>COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES &amp; JUDICIARY</b>
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Hearing Date:3/31/2022

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) fully supports the intention of this resolution. Foreign-born persons who identify as women are disproportionately impacted by domestic/intimate partner violence. It is critical that these individuals get assistance that is linguistically and culturally competent. Please support this important work.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights



**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 3:10:15 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelina Mercado	Testifying for Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 our member programs and community partners to address the needs of survivors and their families, and advocating for social justice and change.

We support this measure and recommend the following amendments:

1. Create a task force that includes the Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, The Legal Clinic, and the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence in addition to the Hawai‘i Commission on the Status of Women, Domestic Violence Action Center and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce.
2. The purpose should be to develop an outreach program aimed at informing domestic violence victims through a culturally competent and gender-responsive lens.
3. Since funds are not appropriated, we recommend removing the implementation of the outreach program.

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

Sincerely,

Angelina Mercado, Executive Director

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 10:37:10 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
L Basha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spending money on developing this outreach program is both the right thing to do, and will save tax dollars in the long run by informing people of the available intervention programs which will provide assistance early and should prevent more costly later intervention and assistance.

Lawrence Basha

Kailua

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:13:54 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello legislators,

I urge you to pass SCR133, which will provide a task force needed to protect Filipino women from domestic violence. When I say task force, I do not mean involve police or any kind of authority like them. I mean community organizers who have been doing work in working with communities to provide support and protection for those experiencing domestic violence. In this case, Filipino women and femmes who are facing it. Support and protection is what they deserve! Pass SCR133 now!

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:56:35 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rose Churma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Support for SCR133/SR177**

Thursday, March 31

Dear Chairs Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Ihara and Keohokalole, and Honorable Members,

I support and respectfully request amendments to strengthen **SCR 133/SR177**.

This project is urgently needed and warrants the creation of a formal taskforce: the *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.<sup>[1]</sup> 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 a 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...”

We need a special taskforce led for and by Filipino women to address this deadly tragedy afflicting our community and that is currently, but not eternally, embedded in our culture.

**Requested Amendment:**

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**

1. 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**

Accordingly, I ask that the Committee pass SCR133/SR177 with friendly amendments.

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[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

## **Support for SCR133/SR177**

Thursday, March 31

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This project is urgently needed and warrants the creation of a formal taskforce: the *Task Force to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women*.

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### **Requested Amendment:**

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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

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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

Accordingly, I ask that the Committee pass SCR133/SR177 with friendly amendments.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D.

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 2:26:19 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Vice Chair,

I fully support SCR133 approval to provide domestic violence resource assistance.

Edith Ignacio Neumiller

Kauai citizen



**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:18:03 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In urging the SCSW, I also urge the Legislature to work with those who have worked very closely on this issue. The social-economic-cultural nuances that have to be addressed require also the leadership of those who have worked on domestic violence among Ilokans, Tagalogs, Visayans, mixed cultures, new immigrants, second or third generation etc. There are nuances among those who are under-resourced and under-networked. I am not seeing the organizations or persons here.-

Mahalo.

**Support for SCR133/SR177**



Thursday, March 31

Dear Chairs Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Ihara and Keohokalole, and Honorable Members,

I support and respectfully request amendments to strengthen **SCR 133/SR177**.

This project is urgently needed and warrants the creation of a formal taskforce: the *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.<sup>1</sup> 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 a 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...”

We need a special taskforce led for and by Filipino women to address this deadly tragedy afflicting our community and that is currently, but not eternally, embedded in our culture.

**Requested Amendment:**

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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

Accordingly, I ask that the Committee pass SCR133/SR177 with friendly amendments.

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 5:50:18 PM  
Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Divina Robillard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Support for SCR133/SR177**

Wednesday, March 30

Dear Chairs Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Ihara and Keohokalole, and Honorable Members,

I support and respectfully request amendments to strengthen **SCR 133/SR177**.

This project is urgently needed and warrants the creation of a formal taskforce: the *Task Force to End the Invisibility and Abuse of Filipino Women*.

There are many reasons why Filipinas leave the motherland. One of them is the kind of subculture that glorifies the martyrdom of women and the mistaken notion that taking care of the "weaker sex" is by excluding them from decisions affecting their lives and body, encouraging a subservient attitude which leads them to tolerate all kinds of abuse, in households and in society, at large. Pinays with this social background create a pool of willing prey to deviants in American society. This is the pool from which will come the next generation of Pinays with, unsurprisingly, the same predilection. This has to stop and to stop now!

Thank you.

**SCR-133**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 11:30:41 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Ihara and Keohokalole, and Honorable Members,

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/SR177 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/SR177.**