



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 10:01 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Dyan M. Medeiros

Senior Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Resolution No.:** House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, H.D. 1.

**Purpose:** Requesting the Judiciary to Convene a Working Group to Study How Effective Existing Laws on Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders, Protective Orders, and Harassment by Stalking Are In Preventing Continued Abuse and Harassment.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary appreciates the amendments made to House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, H.D. 1. Moving forward, the Judiciary respectfully requests the authority to invite other individuals or entities not listed in HCR55, HD1 with relevant knowledge or experience to be members of the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this resolution.

JON N. IKENAGA  
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**DEFENDER COUNCIL**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
SUITE A-254  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**HONOLULU OFFICE**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
SUITE A-254  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**APPELLATE DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2080

**DISTRICT COURT DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2100

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2300

**FELONY DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2200

**FACSIMILE**  
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAII  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

HAYLEY Y.C. CHENG  
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

**HILO OFFICE**  
275 PONAHAHAWAI STREET  
SUITE 201  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
TEL. NO. (808) 974-4571  
FAX NO. (808) 974-4574

**KONA OFFICE**  
75-1000 HENRY STREET  
SUITE #209  
KAILUA-KONA HI 96740  
TEL. NO. (808) 327-4650  
FAX NO. (808) 327-4651

**KAUA'I OFFICE**  
3060 EIWA STREET  
SUITE 206  
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766  
TEL. NO. (808) 241-7128  
FAX NO. (808) 274-3422

**MAU'I OFFICE**  
81 N. MARKET STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TEL. NO. (808) 984-5018  
FAX NO. (808) 984-5022

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawai'i to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

April 15, 2025

**HCR 55, HD1 (HSCR 1849):**

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP  
TO STUDY HOW EFFECTIVE EXISTING LAWS ON DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS, PROTECTIVE  
ORDERS, AND HARASSMENT BY STALKING ARE IN PREVENTING  
CONTINUED ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender **submits comments on HCR 55, HD1:**

The Office of the Public represents defendant charged in criminal courts with offenses relating to domestic violence, including violations of temporary restraining orders, orders for protection, abuse, harassment and harassment by stalking. We represent the majority of defendants appearing in criminal court for these offenses.

We respectfully request that the working group include the following additional members or their designees:

1. The Office of the Public Defender
2. The Hawaii Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (HACDL)

We submit that it is essential for any working group studying domestic violence and the efficacy of existing laws in preventing continued abuse and harassment to include the Office of the Public Defender and a member of HACDL. We ask for inclusion on behalf of our Office and on behalf of the private defense bar. This will provide a more balanced discussion and valuable input on how defendants are processed through the criminal courts, what is working, and what is not working to help prevent continued abuse and harassment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# HAWAII STATE COMMISSION

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## ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

April 11, 2025

**Position: Support of HCR 55 HD1**

**To:** Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

**From:** Llasmin Chaîne, LSW, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re:** Testimony in Support of HCR 55 HD1, Requesting the Judiciary to convene a Working Group to Study the effectiveness of Existing Laws on Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders, Protective Orders, and Harassment by Stalking are in Preventing Continued Abuse and Harassment

Hearing: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 10:01 a.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important resolution. I would like to express my strong support of HCR 55 HD1, with comments, as the bulk of domestic violence and stalking survivors are female, and the state would benefit from an analysis as to the efficacy of our current protections and recommendations for improvements to the law to dissuade continued abuse and harassment. I defer to the Judiciary and the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence as to the implementation recommendations and specifics of this resolution.

**Creating protective environments** is one of CDC's recommended strategies for the disruption and prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV). Such approaches address community-level risk factors by changing, enacting, or enforcing laws, regulations or social incentives (or consequences) for behavior, which have the potential for population-level impact on IPV outcomes, often at low cost for implementation. "These community-level approaches may encourage higher rates of disclosure of IPV, increase resources and support leveraged on behalf of IPV survivors, and promote social norms that are intolerant of IPV within the community, potentially increasing the likelihood that community members will intervene when they witness IPV."<sup>1</sup>

I respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HCR 55 HD1** and **offer a non-substantive amendment suggestion to delete repetitive text within the resolution on page 3 lines 28-32**, as the same language is already present on page 3 lines 19-23. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

<sup>1</sup> Intimate Partner Violence Prevention: Resource for Action: A Compilation of the Best Available Evidence. CDC. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/158966>

**HCR-55-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 12:33:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/15/2025 10:01:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify              |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Melody Rolnick | Individual   | Support            | Remotely Via<br>Zoom |

Comments:

Please refer to my zoom testimony in support of this bill.

Thank you very kindly,

Melody Rolnick

**HCR-55-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 3:29:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/15/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HCR55 HD1, which calls for a Judiciary-led working group to study the effectiveness of current laws on domestic violence restraining orders and harassment by stalking.

While TROs and protective orders are essential tools for victim safety, concerns remain about enforcement and their ability to prevent ongoing abuse. This resolution rightly brings together law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, and survivors to examine these issues closely and recommend improvements.

A comprehensive review can lead to stronger protections, better enforcement, and safer outcomes for victims across the state.

Mahalo for considering this important measure.

**HCR-55-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 5:43:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/15/2025 10:01:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Frank Schultz | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this initiative.

**LATE**

**HCR-55-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/15/2025 8:53:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/15/2025 10:01:00 AM

| Submitted By        | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Allen Cardines, Jr. | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

**Support** of HCR55 HD1

Domestic violence and stalking are serious issues that affect many individuals, families, and communities across our island home.

I believe the results from such a study could assist all stakeholders in crafting better, more effective responses to domestic violence and stalking cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.