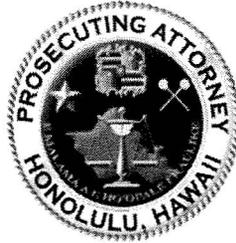


DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

PETER B. CARLISLE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



LATE
Testimony

**THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE TOM BROWER, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009**

February 9, 2009

**RE: HOUSE BILL 1498; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EMERGENCY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS**

Good Morning Chair Mizuno and members of the Human Services Committee, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney provides the following testimony **in support of H.B. 1498**, which proposes to make an appropriation to continue funding for emergency domestic violence shelters across the state.

Few measures that you consider this Legislative session are more certain to save lives than the appropriation in H.B. 1498. Domestic violence shelters have served as the backbone of the safety net for domestic violence victims for the last thirty years. Without these shelters and their associated programs for battered women, men, and children, our communities statewide would be littered with a panoply of additional social and criminal justice ills. Ironically, it has been noted that not only have the deaths of battered women declined drastically as we have implemented emergency violence shelters on every island, but nationally far fewer men have died as the result of a domestic violence encounter. Few alternatives (aside from lengthy and continued incarceration of batterers) has the impact that domestic violence shelters have had. They provide a critical aid to the work of law enforcement when victims, or potential victims, can be quickly whisked away to a shelter and out of the reach of their violent partner. The safe and nurturing environment of our domestic violence shelters also provides an opportunity (often for the first time) for a shell shocked victim to learn that they do not have to live a life dominated by their partner's violence to them and their children. The support provided by shelters goes far beyond providing physical safety as they help link victims with a multitude of other legal, criminal justice, and social services resources. But it is more than individual lives that are stake

with this proposed appropriation, it is the health and well being of communities across the state that benefit from the availability of adequately funded domestic violence shelters.

For the above reasons we strongly urge your support for H.B. 1498. Thank you for your time and consideration.

LATE
Testimony

Testimony on HB 1498

By Angie Doi, Director of Program Services, Child & Family Service

Presented to House of Representatives Committee on Human Services

February 9, 2009

RE: Emergency Domestic Violence Shelters Appropriation

Child and Family Service believes HB 1498 is essential to provide the necessary emergency shelter services to victims and children. Domestic Violence is a serious problem. The shelter are no longer just a place to be safe and to get basic needs meet. The needs of families fleeing for safety are increasing. The families need include more intense services of counseling, resources, and time to heal.

Additional funding that was appropriated for fiscal year 2007 has allowed us to increase staffing so that we can meet clients' needs more appropriately because this additional funding enabled us to have more than one staff member on the evening shift in our shelters as well as provide additional services to the adults and children. However, if additional funding is not provided, at the end of the fiscal year, the program will face a reduction in staff and return to providing only a portion of services that our clients need.

The services required for an emergency shelter operation, and the responsibilities the program has to meet continue to increase. Fixed funding creates a bigger challenge to maintain staffing adequate to provide appropriate services to victims. All cost are going up to run a residential program (such as water, utilities, food, gas). In addition, clients are staying longer due to the lack of affordable housing. Clients are also limited in their ability to find additional services outside of the shelter and are often fearful of seeking services outside of the shelter due to safety as well as trust issues.

It is for these reasons that HB 1498 has our full support and we request your favorable deliberation on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.