



1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • www.pphi.org • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

March 24, 2011

To: Chair John Mizuno, Vice Chair Jo Jordan and Members of the House Committee on Human Services
From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Re: **Testimony in Opposition to HCR 179 and HR 166 Affirming the Parental Rights Amendment**

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii opposes the resolutions affirming the Parental Rights Amendment (PRA) and encouraging its ratification. We firmly believe that parents play the most important role in raising and guiding their children. However, we feel that the PRA is unnecessary and overly broad.

Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and education their children as they see fit. The language of the PRA is very simple, yet very broad. We are concerned that the broad language could erode existing Hawaii State laws that seek to protect and empower minors in need, or at the very least will make those laws the subject of litigation. For example:

- HRS c. 577D which allows certain minors without support over the age of 14 to obtain primary medical care, including screening examinations, immunizations, counseling, medication and treatment of illnesses or medical conditions without parental consent. The PRA would endanger this protection for some of our most vulnerable youth.
- HRS 577A allows minors over the age of 14 to consent to a host of medical family planning care, including physical exams for the screening and medication for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy or family planning service. The PRA may endanger this protection by requiring parental consent to all medical care.
- In addition, progressing state legislation would be eroded by the PRA. SB 921, which was passed by this House Committee on Human Services just two weeks ago, ensures minors the right to consent to emergency shelter services and related care. The PRA could effectively eliminate that right.

Children are best off when their parents are meaningfully involved in their lives and their decisions. Unfortunately, some children and adolescents do not have safe and stable relationships with their parents. It is these vulnerable minors that the State of Hawaii had in mind when passing the above laws. Let's not encourage a policy that will serve to jeopardize the health and safety of children in need. Please do not pass these resolutions out of your committee.

Honolulu Health Center
1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-589-1149

Kailua Kona Health Center
75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

Kahului (Maui) Health Center
140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176
(A Maui United Way Agency)

From: Phil & Dorothy Morris [pdmorris@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:36 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Testimony Against HCR 179/HR 155 (Parental Rights Amendment)

To: Hawaii House of Representatives, Committee on Human Services Hearing on HCR/HR 155
Monday, March 28, 9.00 AM Conf. Room 329

Rep. John M. Mizuno, chair
Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Raye Hanohano
Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Ryan Yamane
Rep. Corinne Ching
Rep. Kimberly Marcos Pine

Dear Representatives,

We appreciate the ground breaking work your committee has done in advancing reproductive health and rights in Hawaii. Therefore it seems incomprehensible to us that you are seriously considering passing a resolution encouraging the passage of the Parental Rights Amendment (PRA).

Firstly, parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The US Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and educate their children. So this amendment is not necessary to protect parental rights! Secondly, encouraging this amendment that negatively affects the work our community and the Committee on Human Services has done to protect the health and safety of our children is not in Hawaii's best interest. This amendment would put our children's health and safety at risk by endangering the tools our children need to obtain primary medical care and family planning services.

Sincerely,

Phil Morris, member of the Board of Directors, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Dorothy Morris, Past President, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

From: Jadine Nielsen [imjadine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:22 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony re: HCR 179/HR 155 (Parental Rights Amendment)

Rep. John M. Mizuno, chair
Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Raye Hanohano
Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Ryan Yamane
Rep. Corinne Ching
Rep. Kimberly Marcos Pine

Aloha Representatives,

As a member of the pro-choice community, I want to thank you for your continued leadership in Hawaii on behalf of women and their families. Your commitment to helping women make good choices about their health care is deeply appreciated.

As a member of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI), I am writing to express opposition to HCR 179/HR 155 (Affirming the Parental Rights Amendment or PRA).

While, of course, we firmly believe that parents play the primary and most important role in the lives of their children, we're concerned that this legislation affirming parental rights is not only overly broad but, frankly, unnecessary. Indeed, the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and educate their children as they see fit.

We're also concerned that the legislation is simplistic and could erode existing Hawaii State laws that seek to protect and empower minors in need, and thereby lead to costly litigation. For example, PRA would prevent certain minors from obtaining primary medical care such as immunizations, counseling, medication, etc.--medical services that are currently covered under HRS c.577D. PRA would also endanger the rights of minors over the age of 14, including those who are victims of domestic violence or abuse and incest, to participate in a host of medical family planning care and services that are currently available to them under HRS 577A.

In the interest of Hawaii's families, specifically Hawaii's women and girls, I urge you to cast your vote in opposition of HCR 179/HR 155.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Jadine Nielsen

Member, Board of Directors
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Jadine Nielsen
One Keahole Place #3611
Honolulu, Hi 96825

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Alan Shino, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Hecia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 23, 2011

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

**TESTIMONY OPPOSING HCR 179/HR 155 AFFIRMING
PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION AND URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth-serving organizations opposes HCR 179/HR 155.

Communities benefit when the needs and rights of all members of our society are taken into consideration. The Hawaii Legislature has rightly passed laws that protect the rights of young people and address the public health needs of our community.

The Parental Rights Amendment proposed by the U.S. Congress has provisions that will, if passed, increase financial burdens on Hawaii's taxpayers and negatively affect the health of our youth. If the Parental Rights Amendment is adopted unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates will rise, because young people will no longer have access to the reproductive health education and medical care that they need. This will result in:

- Lower high school graduation rates as pregnant and parenting teens are more likely to drop out of school;
- More children living in poverty because teen parents lack the skills and experience to adequately support their children financially;
- Higher costs to the State in public financial assistance and Medicaid;
- Higher rates of infertility, cervical cancer, and other public health concerns as a result of delays in or lack of treatment for sexually transmitted infections;
- Delays in obtaining emergency medical care for minors;

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



DATE: March 24, 2011

TO: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair, Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice
Chair, and Members of the Committee on Human
Services

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

HEARING: Monday, March 28th at 9:00am

RE: HCR 179/HR 155

Testimony in Strong Opposition

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies, and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in strong opposition of HCR 179/HR 155 Affirming the parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution and Urging members of the United States Congress to propose the parental rights amendment to the States for ratification.**

Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and education their children as they see fit. We are concerned that the broad language could erode existing Hawaii State laws that seek to protect and empower minors in need, or at the very least will make those laws the subject of litigation. For example: HRS c.577A which supports minors over the age of 14 to obtain primary medical care and HRS 577A which allows minors over the age of 14 to consent to a host of medical family planning care, including physical exams for the screening and medication for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, or family planning service.

Please do not pass this out of your committee.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

Peter K. Kamakawiwoole, Sr.
Parent of five children
Vice President, Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii

To the distinguished members on the Committee on Human Services,

For Monday, March 28, 2011's 9:00 a.m. hearing on H.R.155 and H.C.R.179:

I would like to speak in favor of the resolution encouraging the Legislature to "urge the members of the United States Congress to propose the Parental Rights Amendment to the States for ratification."

Suppose, one day, parents will not be allowed to tell their children...

- Who they can and can't associate with?
- Where they can and can't go on the internet?
- What movies and shows to watch or music to listen to?
- How to think and behave?

Suppose, one day, parents will not be allowed to raise their children with their values but instead will be hindered and governed by the State?

That day is coming.

My name is Peter Kamakawiwoole, Sr. and I am a concerned husband, father of five, Vice President of Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii, and the Senior Pastor of Calvary Church of the Pacific. I am committed to raising and nurturing a healthy family and encouraging others to do the same.

THE ISSUE

Our role, as parents, is critical to the health and development of our children. Researchers and scientists have found that children who have parental support are likely to have better health as adults, tend to earn higher grades, have better social skills, and are more likely to graduate and go on to post-secondary education. Teens with involved parents are one-quarter as likely as teens with "hands-off" parents to smoke, drink, and use drugs.

My son, Peter K. Kamakawiwoole, Jr. (a student in his final semester at Saint Louis University Law School), wrote: "At every stage of life, there is no greater resource and refuge for a child than the love of a parent. Time and time again, studies have found and affirmed that the nurture and love of parents plays a crucial role in positively shaping the future of their children. But a storm is on the horizon, which threatens the vital role of parents in the lives of their children. The Supreme Court, once a defender of freedom for parents, has been slowly shifting toward a pro-government/anti-parent bias which is becoming more and more apparent every day in the law and in the news."¹

¹ Na Makua Hoolako: A Publication of Christian Homeschoolers of Hawaii. V.22, Issue 6 (November 2007), p.3.

1 For years, the Supreme Court has recognized that parents have a fundamental right to
2 raise their children as they see fit, but that support is being steadily undermined.
3

4 ADDRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT THE RESOLUTION

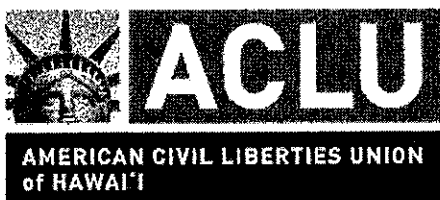
5 First, though I understand its intent and I am not in favor of child abuse and/or child
6 neglect, I do not support the resolution as it is currently written where it “recognizes that
7 governmental interference with parental rights is permissible only to prevent injury or
8 potential injury to a child.” There are cases where governmental interference has over
9 stepped the rights of parents in an attempt to “prevent injury or potential injury to a child”
10 based on anonymous, unsubstantiated reports and due process. May I make an appeal
11 that I would support a resolution that read: “...recognizes that governmental interference
12 with parental rights is permissible only to prevent injury or potential injury to a child *if*
13 *there is probable cause and actions taken against parents are carried out according to*
14 *our laws.*” (Change/addition to H.R.41 & H.C.R.41) May I also make an appeal to
15 suggest that you include the following within the body of the resolution: “**WHEREAS,**
16 **we believe that children can and should be protected from abuse or neglect by the**
17 **continued enforcement of these time-honored constitutional principles governing the**
18 **parent-child relationship.**” (Taken from Petition for Constitutional Recognition of
19 Parental Rights at www.ParentalRights.org.) This statement can address your stance on
20 child abuse and/or neglect.
21

22 Second, I believe this resolution is a step in the right direction and I want to thank the
23 authors and framers for their affirmation of parenthood. However, the United Nation’s
24 Convention on the Rights of the Child has already been used by our judges and our
25 government to limit and in some cases usurp parental authority here in the United States
26 of America, even though we have not ratified this treaty as a nation. Such a ratification
27 will nullify this (and other similar) resolutions and laws that affirm parental rights in
28 raising their children. May I make an appeal that you take further steps in strengthening
29 parental rights by initiating and supporting a movement towards a U.S. Constitutional
30 Amendment to make parental rights a protected and stated, rather than an implied, right,
31 which will guard against the rule of treaties and laws, especially those originating and
32 directing from other countries.
33

34 THE BENEFITS OF THE RESOLUTION

- 35 • This is a resolution that does not require much cost to implement.
- 36 • This resolution communicates that the legislature encourages and supports
37 parents, especially in light of the recent furloughs.
- 38 • This resolution provides the vehicle to give parents the confidence that they can
39 raise their children based on their convictions and beliefs within the confines of
40 the law.
41

42
43 I want to thank you for this opportunity and applaud your effort. Thank you for serving
44 our state.



Committee: Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 28, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Opposition to H.C.R. 179/H.R. 155

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in opposition to H.C.R. 179/H.R. 155.

While parents play the most important role in raising and guiding their children, the Parental Rights Amendment ("PRA") is unnecessary and overly broad. Parental rights have long been protected by the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the basic right of parents to raise and education their children as they see fit.

The language of the PRA is very simple, yet very broad and could erode existing Hawaii State laws that seeks to protect and empower minors in need, or at the very least will make those laws the subject of litigation.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Monday, March 28, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Room 329

STRONG OPPOSITION

HCR 179/HR 155 - Constitutional Amendment for Parental Rights

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator Community Alliance on Prisons. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that almost 1,800 individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HCR 179/HR 155 affirms the parental rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly opposes this proposal and respectfully asks the committee to be mindful that the U.S. Constitution has been amended only 19 times since it went into effect in 1789.

Please be don't tinker with this document.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:02 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: HCR179/HR155 to be heard Monday, 03/28/11, at 9:00am in Room 329

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Human Services Committee Members

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate
881 Akiu Place
Kailua, HI 96734

DATE: 03/28/11

RE: Words of Caution re: HCR179/HR155

While the intent of the measure appears to be something we could all rally around, I just wanted to throw in some words of caution.

Under normal circumstances and situations, this proposal is right on HOWEVER under circumstances where domestic violence is present, this proposal is seen in an entirely different light. In too many instances of domestic violence, parental rights out-trump a child's right to safety more times than I'd care to think about and between the two, a child's right to safety should always supercede parental rights.

Hopefully we've moved beyond or evolved away from the whole "children are chattel" mindset, but in domestic violence situations, the chattel rule still applies and there are some abusers who are willing to kill (and have killed) to keep that rule in-place despite a victim-survivor's attempt at autonomy and safety for herself and her children. "One size fits all" always works to the detriment of abuse victims and survivors. Just something to think about.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:58 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

This is an amendment that negatively affects what is already in place to protect children, and I urge you to OPPOSE this bill. What needs to be focussed on now are ways to support parents becoming involved in their children's lives and that cannot be accomplished with State laws.

Please OPPOSE this completely and immediately.

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Monday, March 28, 2011
9:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON HCR 179 AND HR 155 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION
TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, JO JORDAN, VICE-CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kevin Fuchikami, I am twelve years old, and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am in strong support of HCR 179 and HR 155, which will show Hawaii is in support of the parental rights amendment which states that parents have the right to raise their children as they see fit.

I support these resolutions because family is important, especially in Hawaii. My Mom and Dad are great parents. They buy me everything I need and some things I do not need. My Dad works a lot so my Mom can homeschool me and my siblings.

I think these resolutions are good for Hawaii to pass because Hawaii is all about 'Ohana and it will help protect families.

I thank the committee for the time to read my thoughts on these very important matters and ask that you please pass these resolutions.

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Monday, March 28, 2011
9:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON HCR 179 AND HR 155 – AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, JO JORDAN, VICE-CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kristi Fuchikami. I am an eighteen year old resident of Ewa Beach. I am in strong support of HCR 179 and HR 155, which would show Hawaii's support of the Parental Rights Amendment which in turn would affirm the fundamental rights of parents to raise their children without interference from the government.

Lines 6-8 of page one state: "Our nation has historically relied first and foremost on parents to meet the real and continuing needs of their children." There is a good reason for this, parents know their children best. They honestly want what is best for their children.

Now I realize that there was a bit of concern about passing this resolution because we may have trouble with parents who abuse their children. Lines 9-13 on page two states: "Section 2: Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served." As well as lines 23-29 on page two: "this amendment will add explicit text to the United States Constitution to protect in perpetuity the rights of parents as they are now enjoyed without substantive change to current State or federal law respecting these rights, including the preservation of the Supreme Court's tradition of

Testimony of Kristi Fuchikami
HCR 179 & HR 155
March 28, 2011
2

upholding state laws against child abuse or neglect as representing a 'governmental interest...of the highest order.'" To me, this implies that the government is free to intervene in abusive situations. We also have laws that protect children in such cases.

This is a pro-family resolution. HCR 179 and HR 155 are the perfect resolutions for Hawaii to pass. They are good for the keiki, parents, and the whole 'Ohana. Hawaii is called "The Aloha State". A paradise of beautiful waters and majestic mountains where families are not only important, they are everything.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this important issue and ask that you please pass this resolution. Thank you.

Testimony in support of
Daniel Paul de Gracia, Concerned Citizen

on the measure of
HCR 179/HR 155

"AFFIRMING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED
STATES CONSTITUTION AND URGING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE
STATES FOR RATIFICATION."

Before the
House Committee on Human Services
Monday, March 28, 2011
Conference Room 329
9:00 am Agenda

**Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, Honorable Members of the Committee on
Human Services:**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 179/HR 155. I
am a political scientist specializing in international law, international
organizations and geopolitical analysis.

From 2007 to 2008 I was the committee clerk for the Chair of the House
Committee on International Affairs. In 2001 at age 21 I was the youngest
person admitted to my graduate school's international politics master's
program and since age 18, my research and opinions have been featured both
nationally and internationally in mass media. I disclose this to the
committee for the purposes of establishing that I am well aware of the
United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, I have authored
resolutions for the Hawaii State Legislature pertaining to the UNCRC and I
understand why the UNCRC exists. If there is anyone who understands
globalism and international organizations, it is me. It is because I
thoroughly understand the UNCRC that I strongly support a parental rights
amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

My concern is that the UNCRC while its intent is admirable can be misconstrued as giving government the interventionist mandate to override parenting and even allow "legal kidnapping" of children by child protective services. As policymakers, you have to always take into consideration worst-case scenarios and engineer checks and balances into a system. The "worst case scenario" with the UNCRC - should it ever be ratified by the United States government or its syntax assimilated into state legislation - is that whoever controls child protective services essentially becomes an absolute authority who can arbitrarily sever parents from their children. The potential for unilateral intervention without appeal and political abuse of that kind of power is terrifying.

We've already seen the recent development of President Obama utilizing UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1973 (2011) to unconstitutionally interject global will and international military power into the sovereign state of Libya without first obtaining Congressional approval; if the President didn't hesitate to use the UN to attack a sovereign state, I fear that a UNCRC-empowered state child protective services director would not hesitate to go into the homes of parents accused of not complying with the state's model of parental leadership.

As it is, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has already established in its own white papers that religion should be replaced with environmentalism (see "The UNEP That We Want: Reflections on UNEP's future challenges," International Institute of Sustainable Development, September 2007) - what is to stop child protective services from taking a child out of a home because the parent does not subscribe to the government's view of the environment? To some that may seem laughable but I tell you this is a very real and chilling possibility that has already gained acceptance with a number of international technocratic advocates. Hawaii in particular with its deep roots to Native Hawaiian spiritualism and traditions obviously understands that raising Hawaiian keiki is not the

same as raising mainland children - their ethos, pathos and logos are vastly different. Does this mean that Hawaiian keiki should be subjected to the opinions and doctrines of the UNCRC or the State of Hawaii? I would argue that the legislative pattern established by the Hawaii State Legislature over the years has reflected in fact a safe harbor regime of exemptions for Hawaiians in which their cultural and spiritual identity has always been allowed to take precedence. In light of this, all we are asking with a Parental Rights Amendment is the same degree of freedom for U.S. parents. Parents everywhere should be allowed the freedom to raise their children according to their appropriate cultural and spiritual context.

I will be the first to admit that there are many people in this world who are irresponsible and foolish parents but that does not mean that the United Nations should be the regulatory agency for the entire institution of parenting. There are parents who are alcoholics and drug abusers but that does not mean that every parent in the world needs to be under the oversight of child protective services. Whenever you give government the power to intervene, you also give government the power to abuse. Please recognize the slippery slope before us and help us get a Parental Rights Amendment to keep putting keiki and their ohana - not their government - first.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:42 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Todd Hairgrove
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 9:46 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Todd Hairgrove
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 12:13 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: penumbrook@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: 20110325 HR155 and HCR179 ljh.PDF

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lawrence J. Holbrook
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: penumbrook@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
26th Legislature, 2011

House Resolution 155 and House Concurrent Resolution 179 (HR155, HCR179) purport to affirm a "parental rights" amendment to United States Constitution. However, Hawaii representatives should pay attention to the details of the resolutions and the hidden agenda they bring.

HR155 and HCR 179 initially focus on children's education and the right of parents to choose a child's education. The resolutions endorse the United States Supreme Court decision in *Wisconsin vs. Yoder* finding that Amish children could not be placed in compulsory education without violating parent's freedom of religion. The decision upholds the respect our Constitution has for the separation of church and state regardless whether the strict religious principles are in the best interests of the child.

In contrast, the resolutions dismiss the nuanced wisdom of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Troxel vs. Granville* wherein the court held that "The custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder."

Troxel does not limit parental rights to six different opinions as purported by the proposed resolutions, rather, it is much broader in scope and far more affirmative of parental rights than *Yoder*.

The resolutions also purport that *Troxel* creates confusion and ambiguity about the fundamental nature of parental rights declared in the case. Yet the *Troxel* decision stands because it has unequivocally established that "the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents."

Thus, the proposed Constitutional amendment appears to oppose it's stated purpose. What, then, could be the purpose of the amendment?

It is important to consider that the resolutions cite a version of the amendment proposed by U.S. Congress member Peter Hoekstra (R-MI) who first made headlines by announcing that weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq. Since no such weapons were actually found, the incident is revealing in that the Congressman may not be the best source for a Constitutional amendment. Rep Hoekstra's amendment purports to prevent the erosion of parental rights by taking away the non-discriminatory parenting rights confirmed in the *Troxel* case and replacing it with rights of religious freedom in the *Yoder* case.

In today's society of mixed, blended, and multiple families, the amendment does nothing to clarify what is a parent. At the same time, it would increase the power of parents to protect religious practices that may not be in the best interests of families or children.

In our courts, the resolutions would entrench the much maligned tradition of granting parental rights to a "custodial parent" where the other parent becomes no more than a visitor in his or her children's lives. Conflict in our adversarial family court system would be sure to increase as parents use the amendment to assert religion over the best interests of the child.

Hawaii would do better, instead, to consider a bill similar to South Dakota's House Bill 1255 (*Argus Leader*, 2/16/11). This "Shared Parenting" bill would allow Hawaii to enter the 21st Century where divorce may be deemed, when appropriate, a legal

manuever for power and control of the children in a relationship. Such a bill would protect our children far better than the proposed Constitutional amendment.

In a global context, the proposal is xenophobic. The proposed resolutions would prevent us from interpreting emerging data in the nascent science of parental rights. In the presence of world-wide phenomena, such as parental alienation and parental abduction, such an amendment would prevent us from forming laws that are truly in the best interests of the children.

Further, the dogmatic form of the proposed resolutions would undermine the Supreme Court's insistence on parental rights and defer those rights to religious organizations. We would simply substitute religious governance for governance of, by and for the people.

If we ignore the powerful religions that would control our government, we would be ignoring a creeping, irrational fundamentalism. Religions and the families of religious institutions can be better protected without this Constitutional amendment.

If we ignore the ever-expanding data on families, we would ignore a better world where families can be confident of choices they make for their children. Without this amendment, we can be assured that families--not religions--provide their sons and daughters with the best possible upbringing.

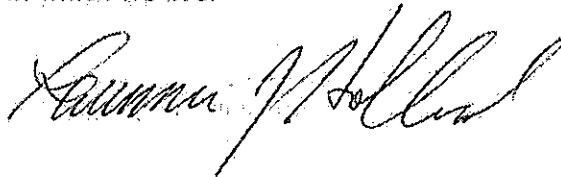
Yoder is a good case that protects religious freedom within families, but it is not appropriate for asserting unqualified parental rights that may increase the chance that our keiki may be abused and that their abusers will be protected.

Troxel is a United States Supreme Court case with fundamental human rights at its very core. Troxel argues, in effect, for a presumption of equally shared parenting that respects the rights of both parents to raise the child and respects the right of the child to be raised by both parents.

As proposed, these resolutions are not in the best interests of our keiki.

Please do not support HCR 179 or HR 155 as proposed. These resolutions are against our best interests; for our keiki, for our families, for our Hawaii, for our United States, and for the world in which we live.

Lawrence J. Holbrook
4050B Keanu St.
Honolulu, HI 96816



3-25-2011

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 9:40 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tallguycpo94@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: SubmitTestimony.docx

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lanson Hoopai
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tallguycpo94@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

March 28th, 2011

9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 179

Relating to the Parental Rights Amendment

Honorable Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 179, relating to the Parental Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. My name is Lanson Hoopai, and I stand in strong support of this Resolution.

It is commonly understood, set in precedent by the courts, and implied in our Constitution, that parents have the fundamental right to direct the upbringing of their children. In terms of education, extracurricular activities, and personal life, parents play a vital role in a child's individual productivity and future. It is wholly unreasonable to expect anyone else, other than the parental unit, to be able to judge what is best for a child.

Granted, there are the occasional instances of child abuse. Besides being fairly rare, however, conditions are set in the Hawaii Revised Statutes §§ 571-61; 587-2 dictating when a parent will have his or her rights to raise a child stripped. These standards are incredibly in depth, and sufficiently cover almost any imaginable scenario of abuse or neglect.

It is feared that a Parental Rights Amendment would change or undermine these conditions for the protection of the child. However, it does no such thing. If the Amendment derides anything, it restricts the activities of those who would seek to unjustly destroy a parent's rights externally. It turns the fundamental right into one that is inalienable, and does not affect the conditions for government intervention. In fact, as stated in the Amendment itself, it still allows for the revocation of Parental Rights should the state demonstrate an issue of the highest order, interpreted by the courts to be abuse or neglect.

Protecting Parental Rights is an essential duty of the government. For the reasons stated above, I humbly urge you to vote in favor of this amendment.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 10:50 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: ps121hb98@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: SubmitTestimony.docx

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larissa Hoopai
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ps121hb98@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

March 28th, 2011
9:00 AM, Conference Room 329
Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 179
Relating to the Parental Rights Amendment

Honorable Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 179, relating to the Parental Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. My name is Larissa Hoopai, and I support of this Resolution.

I believe that right to raise children, like me, should be in the hands of parents, and not in the hands of the government. I feel that it is very unwise to give privacy and security issues to people that don't even know me, or know how I feel in certain situations.

I don't think any child affected by this treaty would feel secure under it, no matter what adults say. What adults think and what children actually feel are two very different things. I urge you to vote for HCR 179.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 12:49 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: hubbarde001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HCR 179.doc

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Eva Hubbard
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hubbarde001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Eva Hubbard and I am submitting this letter in favor of amendment HCR179/HR155 to affirm that the State of Hawaii supports the Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Fit parents should be allowed to direct the upbringing of our children. When you and the courts dictate the upbringing of our children there will be a serious increase of repercussions that will add to the already overloaded, overwhelmed, overworked and underpaid social system. Such as, more broken families, school dropouts, teen pregnancies, intermediate and teenage drug and alcohol use, teenage prostitution and teenage suicide. This is an already failed system that should be helping children who are falling through the cracks because they will not, cannot, or have not been placed in safe and secure homes.

How dare the courts now propose to insist on telling us how to raise our children and putting it into law and treaties! The more we change the principles of our Constitution the dirtier our nation becomes. History has shown the downfall of indoctrination of different teachings. Nations have become occupied, subjugated, poor or completely wiped out by their own unscrupulous behavior. Is our state a leading example for the rest of our nation? It is now with recent amendments unconsciously being approved, without thinking of what the outcomes or consequences would be?

You say that you are here in the best interest of the children and their future, but what about those that are already suffering on the beaches, on the streets, in the foster homes never finding permanent placements, or those just sitting in the system with no names such as "Baby Girl" or "Baby Boy" still not yet placed in a permanent home. Do you really think you are prepared to receive or take anymore children into your system with already over 2,766 sitting in foster care, or the 878 still waiting for adoptions? Who are you to tell me how I should be raising my children when the system you implemented and you put into action has an appalling succession rate and has failed so many times. Why would I or anyone else want to hand over my parental rights to you?

Improve the system and you increase the percentage of the succession rate. Improve the education by teaching the children "how to" become better parents themselves and you decrease the number of teenage children that are already on welfare or in transitional homes. Teach the children virtues, ethics, integrity, values, economics and heritage, honesty and respect, not only at home but in the schools. Put doctrine back into the school. Put God back into the school and we wouldn't have such a high percentage of parents wanting to put their kids on a waiting list for all the expensive private schools. We are now suffering the consequences of decisions made in the past, why are we making the same mistakes and doing the same things. It's not working and now you, the government, want to control our families, our ohana. Are we moving into a dictatorship? It may just be the beginning.

Improve the life of the family and you have generations and generations of well balanced children that will be able to stand firm even if they face obstacles instead of teaching families to be dependent on a failed system. That same lifestyle and thought process is now being accepted by children who know how to manipulate the system.

I say again, it is our right to choose what is best for our children. We are their parents, you are not. We will give our children the best education and services, and so many do, you cannot. It is our right to teach them to succeed even if and when they fail. It is our right to teach them how to survive if the world around them falls apart. It is our right to love our children unconditionally, to raise the bar, to raise their standards of living each day in order for them to make it in this uncertain world. It is our right to give them hope where dependency has failed them. It is our right to pursue the freedoms we have in this country rather than living as a country with immorality.

And so, I ask that you consider this amendment to allow us, not the government, to have the right to direct the upbringing of our children as best as we can, as we see fit.

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

Monday, March 28, 2011

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HCR179/155 -
RELATING TO PARENTAL RIGHTS**

**TO THE HONORABLE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:**

My name is Jordan Kakugawa, I am a home-educated student in the tenth grade. I am submitting my testimony in support of HCR179/155 on the Parental Rights Amendment.

I believe this resolution will allow capable parents to be responsible for the well-being of their children. The foundation of our nation is the family unit. Can we watch the very foundation of our great nation crumble as parents' rights to raise their children are taken away from them and given to government agencies?

An example of this: *A thirteen-year-old boy in Washington State was removed from his parents after he complained to school counselors that his parents took him to church too often. His school counselors encouraged him to call Child Protective Services with his complaint, which led to his subsequent removal and placement in foster care. It was only after the parents agreed to a judge's requirement of less-frequent church attendance that they were able to recover their son. (parentalrights.org)*

In the above example and in numerous other examples, parents are losing their children over absurd circumstances! How can we protect the majority of "good" families from these circumstances? Passing this resolution will allow capable parents to protect their children and to raise them as their parents have done. The right to raise children in their own home is a fundamental right -- a God-given right -- which allows parents to instill important values, morals, and beliefs into their children.

I thank this committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this important issue and ask that you support this resolution on the Parental Rights Amendment.

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 8:17 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: seeknfind@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HCR179..doc

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rita L. Kama-Kimura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: seeknfind@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

HCR179/HR155 "Parental Rights"

Friday, March 25, 2011

Hawaii House if Representatives

I am contacting you all to share my support of Parental Rights based on the following:

Parental rights are fundament rights not to be stepped on by government. Government is an entity ever changing and not a person, it does not procreate, it is temporary position entrusted to individuals for a specific period. It is not a parent, it is not human, it does not feel and definitely does not nurture.

Past government intrusion into the lives of citizens has only lead to an increase of alcoholism, suicide, homelessness, deterioration of moral values, increased teen pregnancy, abortion and crime.

I believe the government has done enough already.

It is the responsibility of parents to raise their children as they see fit, to be law bidding, respectful, righteous (knowing right from wrong) doing what is right and to be morally sound and of-course protect them from harm. Which I am afraid is more than what we have received from many of those in our government.

Numerous example of government intrusion can already been seen throughout our nation:

Brown vs Hot, Sexy Safer Production ... denied that parents has any right to know about or control their children attendance at a "sexually explicit" presentation in a public school assembly

Parker vs Hurley ... parents who oppose a particular part of the curriculum on moral grounds do not have a right to opt out their children nor are they entitled to advance notice

Parents United for Better Schools, Inc. vs School District of Philadelphia ... schools cannot give an aspirin to a child without parental consent; however school can distribute condoms without parent consent or knowledge. Let's read that one again!

Fields vs Palmdale School District ... Numerous school boards have determined that parent's right end at the school door!

Herndon vs Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Bd ... 50 hrs of community service (in this case aka involuntary servitude) requirement is based on BOE selection organizations regardless upbringing and/or beliefs.

More information on these and other cases can be found on: info@parentalrights.org

The government to include the education system has no right to go behind the parents back and provide anything the parent might find inappropriate/offensive without advanced notification of the parent. (i.e. health information and/or services)

The rights of the citizens of this state and nation are laid out in the Bill of Rights and Constitution, as is the limitation of the government.

It is the parents right/privilege to raise their and the governments obligation to protect those rights.

Also note that we fall under the laws of the United States, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and US Constitution which cannot be overridden by any international law or body.

In closing, let's remember that nothing enriches a child's life more than a loving, caring, nurturing mother and father. History has proven this time and again.

I pray that you all share my views and will support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rita Kama-Kimura
Mililani**

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 7:48 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: karen_dixie@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen McDaniel
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: karen_dixie@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 10:24 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Cc: web@cartoonistforchrist.org
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lee McIntosh
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: web@cartoonistforchrist.org
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I support HCR 179, which encourages Congress to pass the Parental Rights Amendment. Parents need to be able to raise their children without interference from local and foreign governments in order to raise successful families. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 179.

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 10:25 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: web@cartoonistforchrist.org
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lee McIntosh
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: web@cartoonistforchrist.org
Submitted on: 3/26/2011

Comments:

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I support HR 155, which encourages Congress to pass the Parental Rights Amendment. Parents need to be able to raise their children without interference from local and foreign governments in order to raise successful families. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 155.

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 8:37 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jenofner@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Ofner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jenofner@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

I support parental rights because:

1. I know my child. Therefore I know what's best for my child.
2. I don't want the possibility of any governing entity to legislate/determine my child's abilities, developmental readiness, safety or security.
3. I don't want professionals, who possibly have never raised children themselves, to rate my parenting skills/style.
4. Absolutely oppose ANY source of international law to interpret, modify, enforce laws that infringe on my right to decide what's best for my children.

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 8:38 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jenofner@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HR155 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HR155

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Ofner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jenofner@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

I support parental rights because:

1. I know my child. Therefore I know what's best for my child.
2. I don't want the possibility of any governing entity to legislate/determine my child's abilities, developmental readiness, safety or security.
3. I don't want professionals, who possibly have never raised children themselves, to rate my parenting skills/style.
4. Absolutely oppose ANY source of international law to interpret, modify, enforce laws that infringe on my right to decide what's best for my children.

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:01 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Cc: jbsestak@prodigy.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Betty Sestak
Organization: AAUW - Windward
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jbsestak@prodigy.net
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

This amendment seeks to undo the reproductive and privacy rights of minors and would jeopardize many of the laws the State of Hawaii has passed to protect adolescents' health and safety including" m Minors' Right to Consent to Emergency Medical Care, Minors' Right to Consent to Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care, and proposed SB 921 Minors' Right to Consent to Emergency Shelter. The Parental Rights Amendment has been used by anti-choice activists to constitutionally require parental consent for abortion and alter the reproductive rights of women and girls under the age of 18.

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 2:00 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mwood17@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR179 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR179

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melinda Wood
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mwood17@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

I strongly oppose HCR 179/HR 155. Hawaii's laws at present empower minors over the age of 14 to obtain primary medical services and family planning care. This protection of individual rights is critical to reducing teen pregnancy and STI rates. While we may all hope that teens and parents talk openly and that parents act in the best interest of their children, one need only to read a daily newspaper to see how often this hope goes awry--and how often teens are damaged by poor parenting. Please do not allow the resolution affirming PRA to pass.