

ATTN: House Committee on Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: January 30, 2012

HEARING TIME: 8:30 a.m.

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is in strong support of HB1715 -

that increases the amount individuals can contribute to the Domestic and Sexual Violence/Child Abuse and Neglect Funds, from \$5 to \$10.

Sadly, each year, thousands of Hawaii's families suffer from violence, abuse and neglect. These are the facts:

- Approximately one in seven women in Hawai'i has been the victim of rape at some time in her life.
- 13% of Hawai'i High School Students in 2009 reported they were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months.
- 50% of all homeless women and children in Hawai'i are fleeing domestic violence.
- In Hawai'i, more than 50% of reports of child abuse are confirmed upon investigation.
- In 70% of families in which women are battered, children are also harmed.
- For every dollar spent on prevention, nine dollars are saved on intervention and treatment services.

These funds support the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund and various intervention and prevention programs within the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and under the Judiciary.

The fund has a clear track record of treating and preventing violence against women and children. We ask that you pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition

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To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice-Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB1715 - SUPPORT

Hearing Date and Time: Monday, January 30, 2012, 8:30AM

Good morning Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Jordan, and members of House Committee on Human Services, the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence respectfully submits the following testimony in support of HB1715. As a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

Over the last year, more than 80 percent of local domestic violence programs reported an increased demand for their services. While the need for programs that assist victims increased however, domestic violence programs reported decreases in funding. At a time of limited government resources, alternative sources of funding that support domestic violence programs and raise awareness and prevent future violence are critical.

HB1715 would increase from \$5 to \$10 the amount of authorized income tax check-off that may be designated payable from an individual's state income tax refund to certain special funds or accounts. These funds support the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund and various domestic violence intervention and prevention programs within the Department of Health, Department of Human Services and under the Judiciary. Contributions to this fund have had a significant impact and have supported:

- The creation of public awareness and education campaigns related to violence against women and children;
- Community programs statewide programs that provide survivors support, advocacy and legal assistance;
- Task forces on each island made up of government and community organizations, businesses, and educational institutions, who collaborate on strategies to decrease domestic violence;
- Violence prevention activities that help shift attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate abuse; and
- Training opportunities on the dynamics of domestic violence for faith-based organizations, health care providers, employers and other community members and organizations

We respectfully request that the committee passes HB1715. Thank you for your consideration.