SB1109

TESTIMONY



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES P. O. Box 339

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 6, 2013

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 1109 – RELATING TO HOSPITAL STANDARDS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2013; 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1109 is to add a new part to chapter 321, Hawaii

Revised Statutes, to ensure that victims of sexual assault are provided with medically and

factually unbiased information about and access to emergency contraception when

receiving emergency medical care at Hawaii's hospitals for sexual assaults.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly

supports this bill Administration to ensure that victims of sexual assault are provided with medically and factually unbiased information about and access to emergency contraception when receiving emergency medical care at Hawaii's hospitals for sexual assaults.

In the aftermath of rape, victims find themselves dealing with a host of reproductive and sexual health issues. The physical and emotional trauma suffered by victims is compounded by the possibility of an unwanted pregnancy as a result of the rape. The average rate of pregnancy resulting from rape is between five and eight per cent with an estimated thirty-two thousand rape-related pregnancies occurring every year in the United States.

Emergency contraception is not an abortion pill, nor does it cause any abortive process to take place. Emergency contraception is a safe and effective means of preventing pregnancy after a sexual assault. In fact, the provision of emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault is the most widely recognized and accepted standard of care for sexual assault patients. The American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have stated that sexual assault victims should be informed about and provided emergency contraception. However, a recent survey of emergency facilities in Hawaii revealed a lack of clear policy on the issue.

The Department of Human Services will pay for the necessary emergency contraception medications on a fee-for-service basis. It is estimated that the cost would be negligible, less than \$10,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TO: Chair Green Vice Chair Baker Members of the Committee on Health

Chair Hee Vice Chair Shimabukuro Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

SB. 1109

Good afternoon. We submit this testimony in support of SB 1109. The availability of comprehensive and responsive services to survivors of sexual violence is critically important. The community responsibility and importance of meeting the needs of victims of violent crime cannot be overstated. Preventing unwanted pregnancy is among those needs.

This work to meet the needs of those suffering the psychological and physiological effects of sexual assault belongs to all of us. The difficulty in having these complex needs understood, and the right to supportive and effective treatment remain stunning.

The collective community voices are significant and growing. The support from our legislative leaders and health care providers is essential in the approach to supporting survivors of violent crimes.

Thank you for your ongoing work to address the issue and provide what is needed for those traumatized by sexual violence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our perspective on SB 1109.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 229

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

> COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Dr. Steven Kemble, MD, President Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: <u>SB 1109 RELATING TO HOSPITAL STANDARDS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT</u> VICTIMS

In Support.

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure.

Emergency contraception is not an abortion pill, nor does it cause any abortive process to take place. Emergency contraception is a safe and effective means of preventing pregnancy after a sexual assault.

The American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have stated that sexual assault victims should be informed about and provided with the option of emergency contraception.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - STEPHEN KEMBLE, MD PRESIDENT-ELECT – WALTON SHIM, MD SECRETARY - THOMAS KOSASA, MD IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – ROGER KIMURA, MD TREASURER – BRANDON LEE, MD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHRISTOPHER FLANDERS, DO

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Sen. Josh Green, Chair Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 1:15 p.m. Room 229

SUPPORT FOR SB 1109 - Hospital Standards for Sexual Assault Victims

Aloha Chairs Green & Hee, Vice Chairs Baker & Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 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.

I have also been the Chair of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women for eleven years, although I am not speaking on the City's behalf.

SB 1109 adds a new part to Chapter 321, HRS, to ensure that victims of sexual assault are provided with medically and factually unbiased information about and access to emergency contraception when receiving emergency medical care for sexual assault at Hawai`i's hospitals.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Sexual assault is a life threatening event and one that causes most victims long-term trauma. Survivors often experience depression, intense fear, anxiety, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Healing may take a lifetime. Many of our incarcerated women have been through the traumatic experience of rape, which has led many of them to use drugs to self-medicate and, sadly that path has led them to prison.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Division information, there were 228 forcible rapes in Hawai'i in 2011.¹ Many survivors of rape require immediate medical attention at one of Hawaii's emergency rooms.

¹ FBI, 2011. "Crime in the United States." Accessed from <u>http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-us/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table-1</u> on December 2, 2012.

It is unconscionable to us that women would be denied information and access to emergency contraception in the Aloha State after going through the worst trauma imaginable.

In addition to the aftermath of rape, victims find themselves dealing with a host of reproductive and sexual health issues, including pregnancy. Statistics vary, but indicate that approximately 5% - 8% of all rapes result in pregnancy.²

In 2012, sixteen states and the District of Columbia have adopted legislation requiring the provision of information about and/or access to EC to sexual assault victims in emergency rooms.³ The federal government also has standardized rules regarding EC and requires that all military and federal hospitals stock EC.⁴ The Army Medical Command Regulations advise discussing and providing EC to sexual assault victims.⁵

Providing EC in the ER is the accepted standard of care. The American Medical Association's guidelines for treating sexual assault victims states that victims should be informed about and provided EC.⁶ The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology also supports this standard of care.⁷

I remember the terror in my sister's voice when she called to tell me she had been raped. She was 19 years old. This traumatic and violent assault has impacted her life until this very day and she is now almost 60 years old.

Please pass this compassionate care bill. No one should be denied access and information to medical care in the Aloha State.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

² Psychology Today, 2012. "Why Are Rape Victims More--Not Less--Likely to Become Pregnant?" Accessed from <u>http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/animals-and-us/201208/why-are-rape-victims-more-not-less-likely-become-pregnant</u> on December 2, 2012.

³ National Conference of State Legislatures, 2012. "Emergency Contraception State Laws." Accessed from <u>http://www.ncsl.org/issuesresearch/health/emergency-contraception-state-laws.aspx</u> on December 2, 2012. ⁴ Department of Defense, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Recommendations, November 2009, Signed February 2010.

⁵ Army Medical Command Regulation, 40-36, Part 17, January 2009.

⁶ American Medical Association, Strategies for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Assault (1995).

⁷ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2004. "Violence Against Women: Acute Care of Sexual Assault Victims." at

http://www.acog.org/Resources_And_Publications/Committee_Opinions/Committee_on_Health_Care_for_Und erserved_Women/Sexual_Assault



Email to: HTHTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov Hearing on: February 6, 2013 @ 1:15 p.m. Conference Room # 229

DATE: February 3, 2013

TO:	Senate Committee on Health	Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
	Sen. Josh Green, Chair	Sen. Clayton Hee
	Sen. Roz Baker, Vice Chair	Sen. Maile Shimabukuro

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to SB 1109 Relating To Hospital Standards for Sexual Assault Victims

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Walter Yoshimitsu, <u>representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference</u>. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva.

Because of its religious tenets, St. Francis Healthcare System, does not provide abortion services, including "emergency contraception" which can induce early abortion. While it is true that the former St. Francis hospitals are now operated by Queens Medical Center, there are two crucial legal items that merit your attention.

GOVERNMENT COMPULSION TO VIOLATE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

First, the legal relationship between Queens and St. Francis is governed by a contract binding them to operate the hospitals in a manner consistent with Catholic ethical and religious directives. Those directives prohibit complicity in the termination of life, beginning at the moment of conception. Emergency contraceptives sometimes work post-fertilization, resulting in the termination of the new young life and thereby ending the pregnancy. This violates a core religious directive. Passage of this measure would use government force to compel Queens to provide 'emergency contraceptives' which the Catholic Church believes can act as abortifacients – something that would be directly contrary to our religious belief in the sanctity of human life.

SCOPE OF SERVICES UP TO HOSPITAL

Finally, we also believe strongly that the "scope of services" provided by any licensed health care institution is the prerogative of that organization's administration and its medical staff. It is that institution's right as a business and a health care provider to determine which services should be made available via its programs and facilities. It is that organization's administration and medical staff that adopts medical protocols for services to be rendered without government interference.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

<u>SB1109</u>

Submitted on: 2/1/2013 Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 6, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kimura	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies	Support	Yes

Comments: Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii is testifying today in support of SB 1109, relating to a law requiring emergency rooms to provide medically and factually unbiased information about and access to emergency contraception (EC) for sexual assault victims who seek emergency care after a rape. Providing EC in the ER is the accepted standard of care. The American Medical Association's guidelines state that sexual assault victims should be informed about and be provided EC. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology also supports this standard of care. As of 2012, 16 states and the District of Columbia have adopted similar legislation requiring the provision of EC in the emergency room and the Federal Government requires all military and federal hospitals to stock EC as well. Currently there is no clear or standard policy among Hawaii hospitals; putting survivors at risk for additional risk of victimization, as statistics indicate approximately 5-8% of rapes result in pregnancy. Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve standard, consistent access to compassionate, quality care after experiencing the trauma of a sexual assault. We ask that you protect the health of women in Hawaii and pass this bill. Thank you for opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Holly J. Huber

1519 Nuuanu Ave #154 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 (808) 554-7692 • hollyjhuber@gmail.com

Senate Committees on Health and Judiciary & Labor Hearing on February 6, 2013 @ 1:15 PM in Conference Room 229 SB1109 RELATING TO HOSPITAL STANDARDS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

February 4, 2013

Aloha Senators:

Mahalo for hearing SB1109 on hospital standards for sexual assault victims.

I urge you to **<u>STRONGLY SUPPORT</u>** this important measure providing SAFE, LEGAL medical care and FACTUALLY ACCURATE information to victims of sex assault.

SB1109 ensures INFORMATION & ACCESS. Consider the alternative that allows hospitals to withhold information and deny medical procedures and prescriptions.

A lease agreement with a landowner should not be used to restrict medical care!! The religious beliefs of a health care provider or its landowner should not eclipse the accepted standard of care.

In the recent election, congressional candidates spouted misinformation and myths about rape, contraception and women's reproductive health. They not only lost the election, they were ridiculed for holding such outrageous and outmoded positions.

SB1109 promotes SAFE and LEGAL medical treatments as well as FACTUALLY ACCURATE and UNBIASED information.

Please vote "YES" on SB1109 in support of INFORMATION & ACCESS.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber

February 4, 2013

Testimony in Support: SB 1109

To: Chair Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Annie Hollis, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii, University of Hawai'i at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1109, Relating to Hospital Standards for Sexual Assault Victims

I strongly support SB 1109, which ensures compassionate care for sexual assault survivors in Hawaii by requiring that emergency departments throughout the state offer information about emergency contraception (EC) and dispense the medication when it is needed and the survivor requests it.

When a woman is sexually assaulted, she should be able to prevent pregnancy as the result of rape. EC prevents pregnancy and is the best, compassionate care that survivors deserve. According to the Hawaii Attorney General's Report, Crime in Hawaii, in 2011, there were 353 reported forcible rapes in Hawaii. Major studies show that reporting rates for rape and sexual assault are approximately 40%.ⁱ Still some studies have shown that rate to be as low as 16%.ⁱⁱ Therefore, the rate of sexual assault in Hawaii is likely much higher. Survivors find themselves dealing with a host of reproductive and sexual health issues, including pregnancy. Statistics vary, but indicate the approximately 5-8% of all rapes result in pregnancy.

Providing EC in the ER is the accepted standard of care. The American Medical Association's Guidelines for treating sexual assault victims states that victims should be informed about and provided EC.ⁱⁱⁱ The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology also supports this standard of care. ^{iv} Disturbingly, some hospitals in Hawaii do not offer victims Emergency Contraception, or even provide information about it, leaving some victims at risk for pregnancy resulting from rape.

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in.

Throughout my career, I have worked with victims of gender-based violence, who are often severely traumatized by sexual assault. As a social worker, I am sure that myself and my colleagues will continue to work with women and girls who have been sexually assaulted. A traumatic event can completely overwhelm an individual's ability to cope or integrate the ideas and emotions involved with the circumstance. Symptoms of trauma can include immediate denial, dissocation and depersonalization where a person feels detached from their own experience, and derealization, an experience where the trauma survivor feels numb, detached, and removed from the immediate situation. Soon after the trauma, a survivor often experiences emotions and reactions like weeping, shaking, anxiety and panic, feeling in danger, sadness, anger, sleep disturbances, suspiciousness, shame, and an intrusive recall of trauma.iv Therefore, it is especially important that when a victim accesses healthcare, the care is comprehensive. In the aftermath of this situation, and considering these symptoms of trauma, the victim may not know what EC is, how it can help her, or remember to ask for the medication. It is the healthcare system's responsibility to provide comprehensive, compassionate care in order to prevent revictimization in the form of an unplanned pregnancy.

I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

ⁱ http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table-5

ⁱⁱ National Center for Victims of Crime & Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Rape in American: A Report to the Nation, (1992).

iii See, American Medical Association, Strategies for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Assault (1995).

^{iv} American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Violence Against Women: Acute Care of Sexual Assault Victims (2004), at http://www.acog.org/departments/dept_notice.cfm?recno=17&bulletin=1625.

Senate Health Committee

To Committee,

Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1109 Relating to Hospital Emergency Compassionate Care for Sexual Assault Victims.

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Allison Dowd 824 Kinau St Apt 1009 Honolulu, HI 96813-2537

Senate Health Committee

To Committee,

Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amy Cook PO Box 10889 Hilo, HI 96721-5889 (808) 344-0083

<u>SB1109</u>

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 6, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Sestak	AAUW- Windward	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support to increase the standard of care.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senate Health Committee

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bliss Kaneshiro 1319 Punahou St Ste 824 Honolulu, HI 96826-1032 (808) 372-7560

Senate Health Committee

To Committee,

Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cathryn Paxton-Haines 480 Hoopalua Dr Makawao, HI 96768-8224 (808) 283-1952

Senate Health Committee

To Committee,

Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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I strongly support SB 1109, which ensures compassionate care for sexual assault survivors in Hawaii by requiring that emergency departments throughout the state offer information about emergency contraception (EC) and dispense the medication when it is needed and the survivor requests it.

I have been a victim of rape. I am a survivor of that trauma but my world view will be forever changed as a result. While I would never abort, I whole heartedly support every other woman's right to choice; to make her own decision based on her own physical and emotional needs.

When a woman is sexually assaulted, she should be able to prevent pregnancy as the result of rape. EC prevents pregnancy and the best, compassionate care that survivors deserve.

Providing EC in the ER is the accepted standard of care. The American Medical Association's Guidelines for treating sexual assault victims states that victims should be informed about and provided EC. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology also supports this standard of care. Disturbingly, some hospitals is Hawaii do not offer victims Emergency Contraception, or even provide information about it, leaving some victims at risk for pregnancy resulting from rape.

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cynthia Sallee-Brown PO Box 82 Paauilo, HI 96776-0082

Senate Health Committee

To Committee,

Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dawn Velasquez 87-3590B Mamalahoa Hwy Captain Cook, HI 96704

Senate Health Committee

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Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Deborah Piegari 3975 Punahele Rd Princeville, HI 96722-5227

Senate Health Committee

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Diane Kimball 27-612 Kalaoa Camp Rd Papaikou, HI 96781-7709

Senate Health Committee

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Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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I strongly support SB 1109, which ensures compassionate care for sexual assault survivors in Hawaii by requiring that emergency departments throughout the state offer information about emergency contraception (EC) and dispense the medication when it is needed and the survivor requests it.

Some Hawaii hospitals do not offer victims Emergency Contraception, or even provide information about it, leaving some rape victims at risk for pregnancy. This is unacceptable care according to the AMA and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology guidelines.

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gay Armsden 230 Ilihau St Kailua, HI 96734-1654

Senate Health Committee

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Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jacqui Skill 3875 Lower Honoapiilani Rd Lahaina, HI 96761-9300

<u>SB1109</u>

Submitted on: 2/4/2013 Testimony for HTH/JDL on Feb 6, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Senate Health Committee

To Committee,

Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1109 Relating to Hospital Emergency Compassionate Care for Sexual Assault Victims.

I strongly support SB 1109, which ensures compassionate care for sexual assault survivors in Hawaii by requiring that emergency departments throughout the state offer information about emergency contraception (EC) and dispense the medication when it is needed and the survivor requests it.

Compassionate care is what we may provide to a sexual assault victim; a victim must be able to make decisions regarding the prevention of pregnancy resulting from rape. Emergency Contraceptives (EC) available to the victim will prevent pregnancy.

Providing EC in the ER is an accepted standard of care and it is my position that all hospitals in Hawaii must offer victims information and/or EC allowing the victim to make decisions regarding potential pregnancy resulting from rape.

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jessie Torres PO Box 23420 Honolulu, HI 96823-3420

Senate Health Committee

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I strongly support SB 1109, which ensures compassionate care for sexual assault survivors in Hawaii by requiring that emergency departments throughout the state offer information about emergency contraception (EC) and dispense the medication when it is needed and the survivor requests it.

I am a PA-C, physician assistant, and have been providing health care to women for over 20 years. This bill represents appropriate health care and I support this bill, and hope you will pass it. aloha, Kathleen Elliott, PA-C Honolulu, HI

When a woman is sexually assaulted, she should be able to prevent pregnancy as the result of rape. EC prevents pregnancy and the best, compassionate care that survivors deserve.

Providing EC in the ER is the accepted standard of care. The American Medical Association's Guidelines for treating sexual assault victims states that victims should be informed about and provided EC. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology also supports this standard of care. Disturbingly, some hospitals is Hawaii do not offer victims Emergency Contraception, or even provide information about it, leaving some victims at risk for pregnancy resulting from rape.

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathleen Elliott 2045 Alaeloa St Honolulu, HI 96821-1020

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Sincerely,

Ms. Kathryn Xian 4348 Waialae Ave # 248 Honolulu, HI 96816-5767

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret Copi 1815 Bertram St Honolulu, HI 96816-2003

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Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Lu Kelley PO Box 289 Lawai, HI 96765-0289

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Sincerely,

Ms. Michelle Gray 430 Lanipuao St Honolulu, HI 96825-2302

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I strongly support SB 1109, which ensures compassionate care for sexual assault survivors in Hawaii by requiring that emergency departments throughout the state offer information about emergency contraception (EC) and dispense the medication when it is needed and the survivor requests it.

I write as a research professor of the University of Hawaii who, along with several colleagues, studied the origin of the 1970 State Law of Hawaii regarding abortion, and then researched its implementation and effect. Many publications were derived from these studies with the most major one being a book titled "Abortion Politics" co-authored with Dr. Patricia Steinhoff.

From these experiences, learning of the heartfelt drama involved in the decision making by families throughout the state, the personal weighing of needs and desires regarding potential and real parenthood, and the commiserate dilemma among legislators in deciding this issue, it is my conclusion that any and all final decisions regarding a potential abortion must, with all compassion, be made by that woman carrying the pregnancy. It is she, who may or may not have familial or spousal support that will most bear the burden of that decision.

As Governor John Burns stated so eloquently as he let the bill become law:

"I appreciate the considerable thought and energies that went into the final development of House Bill 61. Many people -- all-sincere -- in their desire to better the quality of life in Hawaii -- spoke both for and against enactment of this bi11.

Let us now rejoin all our forces and continue to work for a better Hawaii for all our people."

Dr. Milton Diamond, Professor

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Milton Diamond Biomed B204 1960 East West Road Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 956-7400

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Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Mindar 1645 Ala Wai Blvd Honolulu, HI 96815-1065

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Sincerely,

Ms. Teri Heede 92 994 Kanehoa Loop Kapolei, HI 96707

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Please don't listen to the Tea Party and their "War on Women". And don't pay attention to the arguments of the Catholic Church against this - they are also involved in a the War against Women - anti Women on all fronts. I know because I was born and raised Catholic and have been hearing the Vatican rant against women for over 70 years.

Hawaii's most vulnerable patients deserve access to quality, compassionate care after a sexual assault, no matter which emergency room they arrive in. I urge the Committee to pass SB 1109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Terry Travis 91-999 Laaulu St Ewa Beach, HI 96706-3863

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Women who have been raped are many times emotionally traumitized and need assistance to know what options are available to them. Please don't make them suffer twice (first from the rape and second from a child resulting from rape).

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Sincerely,

Ms. tia pearson PO Box 861697 Wahiawa, HI 96786-8563

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Ms. Una Greenaway PO Box 999 Captain Cook, HI 96704-0999

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Mr. VINCENT KIMURA 1711 Nanea St Honolulu, HI 96826-3649 (808) 291-2080