



WOMEN'S CAUCUS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

LATE TESTIMONY

February 10, 2015

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SB 388 Relating to Police Departments
Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 1:15 p.m., Room 229

Position: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of SB 388 Relating to Police Departments which would require each county police department to post its policies relating to domestic violence, officer-involved domestic violence, and standards of conduct on its official website.

Recent events and questions related to those events made apparent the need for transparency of our police departments and for the public to know the policies of police departments relating to domestic violence, and especially those of officer-involved domestic violence. The official websites of the police departments are the logical place to post the policies.

The policies should be available to the public and easy to find. In order to determine if police officers have properly followed policies and procedures, the public must know what they are. Knowing how reports would be handled helps victims know what to expect and whether procedures are being followed.

This measure is a good start to bringing transparency and public confidence in police departments. We respectfully request that the committee pass this measure and we thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Date: February 9, 2015

To: Rep /Senator, Chair
Rep/ Sen, Vice-Chair
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

From: Marci Lopes, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: SB 388 – STRONG SUPPORT

PLACE: Conference Room 229

DATE and TIME: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 1:15 p.m.

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide partnership of 21 domestic violence program and domestic violence shelter providers on 6 of our Hawaiian Islands. Our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

HSCADV supports SB 388 and encourages the committee to pass this bill to ensure transparency between the Honolulu police department and the public. HSCADV recognizes that the overwhelming majority of police officers fulfill their job duties and responsibilities in a effective, professional, and caring manner. However, the officers that currently serve on the police force that do not uphold these standards have caused a significant loss of trust in the Honolulu police department's overall response to domestic violence in the community. Notifying the public about the policies of the department and the responsibilities of the officers that are responding to incidents of domestic violence is critical for rebuilding the trust of the public and improving the overall reputation of the police force. Posting domestic violence policies, standards of conduct, and officer involved domestic violence online is critical to improving transparency and accountability of the police department.

Marci Lopes, Executive Director