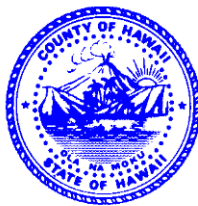


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HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai‘i
25 Aupuni Street
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February 26, 2016

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF SENATE BILL NO. 3080

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO THEFT

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, February 29, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran,
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB 3080, which establishes the offense of theft of urn as a class C felony.

I am in favor of this measure which would make stealing an urn a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. This will help to solve an ongoing problem and help to ensure a person’s remains are kept safe.

February 26, 2016

TO: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, February 29, 2016 at 10:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

FROM:

Lisa Wond



SUBJECT: **S.B. 3080, RELATING TO THEFT**

My name is Lisa Wond and I support S.B. 3080.

Last June, thieves broke into the gravesite of my grandfather, my grandmother, my aunt and my uncle, and stole their urns. The thieves took the urns to Reynolds Recycling, and received \$31. For them, it was a way to make money.

For our family, it was heartbreaking. We canvassed the graveyard and surrounding areas, but the ashes of my family members were never recovered. In Hawaii, where we respect our elders and honor our ancestors, what the thieves did to our family was unbelievable. They stole much more than the urns and ashes of our loved ones. We mourn for a second time the loss of our family members. My mom has had many sleepless nights over the loss of her parents' ashes and what we thought was their final resting place. We are unable to continue our family's culture and tradition of taking our children and grandchildren to visit our family gravesite, knowing that it lies empty. I feel violated and angry that anyone could commit such desperate and selfish acts against us, for \$31. Peace of mind? It's something I haven't had since last June.

While we support making the theft of urns a Class C felony, we also believe that Reynolds' Recycling had a major role in perpetuating this act against our family. We would like to see enforceable provisions included in this bill that address the role of the recycler. For example, prohibiting the sale of urns to recyclers, and prohibiting the purchase of urns by recyclers, with penalties against a recycler who accepts or pays for urns would very likely eliminate the need for thieves to ever steal another urn.

It is a sad statement of our social condition when we have to enact laws to prevent people from stealing the urns of the deceased. But I fully support this bill, with the hope that it will deter thieves enough to prevent other families from experiencing what we are enduring.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.