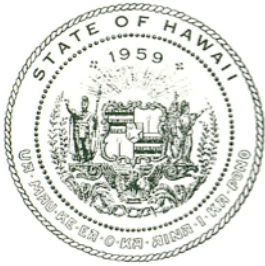


HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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April 3, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Cathy Betts  
Executive Director  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support SCR 132/SR 97

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of these resolutions. The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1981. It is the only human rights treaty focusing on women's rights. Almost all countries in the world have ratified CEDAW—187 out of 194 countries. The United States is one of 7 countries which have refused to ratify CEDAW. In countries which have ratified CEDAW, women and girls have been able to partner with their governments to improve the status of women and girls and institutionalize gender equity in new ways. In 1998, San Francisco became the first municipality in the world to adopt the principles of CEDAW. Other cities and counties across the nation are moving towards the adoption and implementation of CEDAW as a means to ensure gender equity in all city and county services, policies, and procedures. Earlier this year, Honolulu County became the first county in the state to pass CEDAW legislation.

Although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality, women in Hawaii still only make 86 cents to a man's dollar (for the same work performed and with the same qualifications). Additionally, women still serve as primary caretakers of family members, despite also serving in the workforce and acting as sole or primary breadwinners in a majority of Hawaii families. While we have made some strides in preventing violence against women, women and girls in Hawaii are still at high risk of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Anecdotally and statistically, it is clear that we can and should be doing more to ensure the safety, economic self sufficiency, and equitable treatment of women and girls in Hawaii.

These resolutions call for all state departments and counties to affirm and uphold the tenets found in CEDAW. Specifically, the resolutions call for a gender analysis of city and state functions, including budgetary considerations. The resolutions also call for the collection of disaggregate data—this is crucial to understanding the differences in discrimination as they may pertain to different counties. The Commission is willing and able to work with state agencies and the counties to create a gender analysis framework. The Commission supports these resolutions and urges their passage.



April 3, 2016

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, April 4, 2016 (8:35 a.m.)  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 016  
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –  
Hawaii in **support** of S.C.R. 132 / S.R. 97, requesting state  
departments and the several counties to affirm the tenets and  
principles found in the Convention on the Elimination of all  
forms of Discrimination Against Women

Dear Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran (Chair), Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
(Vice Chair), and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.C.R. 132 / S.R. 97**, requesting state departments and the several counties to affirm the tenets and principles found in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

My testimony is on behalf of the 442 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawaii. AAUW has focused on equality for women since 1881. S.C.R. 132 / S.R. 97 reminds us that CEDAW “is the only human rights treaty focused on women’s rights” (lines 11-12), and as such, honoring this treaty has special significance for women in Hawaii.

Women number approximately half the population in Hawaii, but are under-represented in many important socio-economic spheres here. For example, “women hold 27.6% of seats in the state legislature;” “women ... will not see equal pay until 2051;” “women own only 31% of businesses in the state;” etc. (Institute for Women’s Policy Research [2015] “Status of Women in Hawaii”). It is time to examine seriously the situation of women in this state, and a good first step is to become more aware of the CEDAW principles. In conclusion, passage of S.C.R. 132 / S.R. 97 is an important step toward a more CEDAW-aware and compliant state and county government for the good of half the population, currently under-represented in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely  
Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.  
Policy Chair

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, April 4, 2016

8:35 a.m.

Room 016

### STRONG SUPPORT FOR SCR 132/SR 97 - Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this resolution...especially in these times when the war against women is raging.

The Convention is the only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations. It affirms women's rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality and the nationality of their children. States parties also agree to take appropriate measures against all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of women.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to support this important resolution!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR132 on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, April 01, 2016 4:31:48 PM

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**SCR132**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR132 on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, April 01, 2016 9:37:01 AM

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**SCR132**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for JDL on Apr 4, 2016 08:35AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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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