

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: vmitestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR69 on Apr 14, 2016 08:30AM

SCR69

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for VMI on Apr 14, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this resolution, Ann S. Freed LTC US Army (Ret)

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April 13, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing testimony in support of SCR 69. As someone who has worked closely with children of all ages and in a variety of settings for 15+ years, the protection of our most vulnerable population is something I take very seriously.

I have worked in the homes of military families with developmentally disabled children and am aware of the high levels of stress and tension that can arise. Military families may have additional burdens compared to non-military families due to the busy career(s) of the parent(s), the effects of deployment on the stay-home parent, the return of a soldier and the subsequent process of reintegration into life at home. These added challenges, trauma from war, and transitioning from deployment can sometimes be the antecedent to various forms of child abuse.

With this resolution and the transparency that it requests of the military justice system and its reporting of criminal sex offenses involving children, children and families will be able to get the help that they so need and to avoid additional abuse from occurring. Unless it is made crystal clear that sexual abuse of our children is not okay and that there are serious consequences for it, regardless of rank or position, our children will continue to suffer, to be permanently damaged, and the perpetrators will walk, free to do so again.

The war that we have been involved in for over a decade has already wounded our American citizens physically and psychologically resulting in drug addiction, suicide, and abuse of loved ones. But please remember that the innocent ones in the equation are our children. They are the future. If we fail to protect them we are not doing our job as parents, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers. Quite the contrary, we are bestowing them lessons that violence and abuse are appropriate problem solving strategies.

From the U.S. Military, I would like to see a standard of justice for children and families. There is no excuse that justifies harming our most innocent, trusting, and impressionable population. We, as a society, will suffer the consequences if no preventative action is taken.

Thank you,

Michal Cordova
MSW student
MBT SSW UH Manoa