

JON N. IKENAGA
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

DEFENDER COUNCIL
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817

HONOLULU OFFICE
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817

APPELLATE DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2080

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2100

FAMILY COURT DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2300

FELONY DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2200

FACSIMILE
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

HAYLEY Y.C. CHENG
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

HILO OFFICE
275 PONAHAHAWAI STREET
SUITE 201
HILO, HAWAI'I 96720
TEL. No. (808) 974-4571
FAX No. (808) 974-4574

KONA OFFICE
75-1000 HENRY STREET
SUITE #209
KAILUA-KONA HI 96740
TEL. No. (808) 327-4650
FAX No. (808) 327-4651

KAUAI OFFICE
3060 EIIWA STREET
SUITE 206
LIHUE, HAWAI'I 96766
TEL. No. (808) 241-7128
FAX No. (808) 274-3422

MAUI OFFICE
81 N. MARKET STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAI'I 96793
TEL. No. (808) 984-5018
FAX No. (808) 984-5022

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai'i to the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

March 11, 2025

**S.B. No. 295 SD1: RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTIVE
ORDERS.**

Chair Marten, Vice-Chair Olds and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender **opposes S.B. 295 SD1.**

This measure increases the mandatory minimum jail sentence for violation of a Temporary Restraining Order and for violation of an Order for Protection.

There is a penalty structure currently built into HRS Sections 586-4 and 586-11 that functions effectively and has been amended numerous times. Many violations of HRS Sections 586-4 and 586-11 are non-violent and do not include a threat of violence. We oppose the increase in mandatory sentencing for a first offense for a minor violation that does not involve violence or the threat of violence (i.e. an unwelcome single text message) to require a mandatory minimum of incarceration of five days and a mandatory fine of \$300 for a first offense.

This measure would restrict the abilities of trial court judges to sentence based on the individual needs of defendants and a review of all the circumstances, including the lack of violence or threats of violence, a defendant's employment, childcare needs, and other mitigating circumstances – including behaviors by a complaining witness or petitioner to invite or encourage contact. This measure would restrict the abilities of a trial court judge to look at medical and mental health needs and would prevent a trial court judge from looking at relevant factors that directly impact

whether incarceration of this length is necessary, appropriate, or even just. This would allow the trial judge to look at the unique phenomenon in Family Court of dueling restraining orders when parties are involved in acrimonious divorce or child custody proceedings as a means to weaponize a restraining order or an order for protection.

We oppose any measure that takes individualized sentencing out of the hands of the trial judges who are in the best position to fashion an appropriate sentence in each case. A trial judge becomes intimately familiar with defendants who are found guilty of these types of offense(s) after a comprehensive review of that individual's social, family, and criminal history. This review includes the defendant's criminal record or lack thereof. The review also includes details about past trauma, the need for mental health treatment, and the socio-economic impacts on an individual. Passage of this measure will prevent a judge from deciding the most appropriate sanction for the individual offender who is currently before them rather than to have their "hands tied" by mandatory sentencing.

A consequence of this measure will be the increase in defendants demanding jury trials to avoid an unduly harsh sentence. This will lead to foreseeable issues: increased trial backlogs and court congestion, loss of critical employment, increased homelessness due to loss of housing or inability to pay for housing, health impacts due to lack of appropriate medical care and mental health care while incarcerated, etc. Some cases can take months or even years to resolve and will contribute to the state's continued issues of pretrial overcrowding in correctional centers.

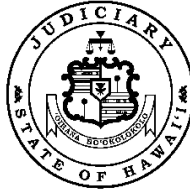
We submit that there is a big difference between non-domestic abuse violations and domestic abuse violations. Lumping these two categories together and treating them the same fails to acknowledge the serious differences and the individualized needs of families in distress. Our office is supportive of more intensive supervision, access to mental health treatment and counseling, substance abuse intervention and treatment, and domestic violence intervention programming. We are deeply concerned that the harsh nature of these amendments can create the unintended circumstance of encouraging parties to obtain restraining orders to use as a means to emotionally and financially abuse partners. We have already seen instances where a true abuser obtains and uses an order for protection as a means to further harm a true victim – thereby using the criminal justice system to further abuse. We respect the work of domestic violence prevention agencies, and it is not unusual for a defendant to have a counselor or service provider affiliated with these agencies. We have also seen siblings fighting over property weaponize restraining orders and orders for protection to force siblings with claims on property to vacate their homes

with serious negative impacts – homelessness, financial instability, mental health crisis, substance abuse, etc. We handle cases involving intimate partners with or without shared children, parent and child relationships, grandparent and grandchild relationships, domestic partners, and siblings. Family Court orders are not one size fits all. We need the flexibility to be able to navigate all the different types of relationships, motivations, and backgrounds when these parties end up in the criminal justice system to resolve conflicts.

With the recent nationwide review of criminal justice policies, it is concerning that the trend in the State of Hawaii is to increase penalties while removing judicial discretion. Restraining order hearings often involve a complicated dynamic of family or household members, trauma, mental illness, and rehabilitation. Many defendants are themselves victims of violence and trauma and could benefit from treatment. The courts should retain the ability to acknowledge and support defendants who are already in treatment or counseling and who have a strong support system to prevent new offenses without requiring lengthy mandatory incarceration that could derail progress or further derail the road to stability. A defendant who may have violated an order but who subsequently finds new housing, obtains employment, and is involved in counseling or treatment, does not need to risk losing progress or employment if they have achieved the ability to get help, obtains stable housing, and are able to respect the existing order. If a defendant in distress has moved forward positively and in a healthy manner and is able to conform their conduct to the requirements of the law, requiring mandatory jail may only cause relapse, financial stress, and increase the risk of a return to negative behaviors.

It is the position of the Office of the Public Defender that the issuing courts can and should do a better job of reviewing circumstances, having conversations with parties, providing support and services, and being open to modifications of these types of orders to meet the changing needs of parties and families in distress. Discussions about changing circumstances, finances, housing options, childcare options, employment, etc. should be planned for or discussed when determining the parameters of long term orders or orders that impact the living status of children in the home. Follow up hearings on the needs of the parties who share children or who may need to make adjustments should be required. Front end supports will go far to help parties understand the parameters, the limits, and the impact these types of orders have on families' long term. We believe back end mandatory jail terms without improving front end supports will do little to improve compliance in the long run.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session

House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair

Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 10am

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

by

Dyan M. Medeiros

Senior Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 295, SD 1, Relating to Domestic Abuse Protective Orders.

Purpose: Increases the penalties imposed on individuals convicted for violation of a temporary restraining order and order for protection. Clarifies that the court shall not sentence a defendant to pay a fine for violating a temporary restraining order or order for protection if, after conducting a financial review, the court determines the defendant is or will be unable to pay the fine. Specifies that the court may suspend certain jail sentence for violation of a temporary restraining order or order for protection upon condition that the defendant remain alcohol- and drug-free, conviction-free, and complete court-ordered assessments or intervention.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on this bill and wishes to express its gratitude to the Senate Committee on Judiciary for taking our prior testimony into account as it drafted SD1 of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515 • WEBSITE: www.honoluluprosecutor.org

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
LOIO HO'OPI'I



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I

**THE HONORABLE LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawai'i**

March 10, 2025

RE: S.B. 295 S.D. 1; RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 295 S.D. 1.

S.B. 295 S.D. 1 eliminates the distinction between violations in the nature of domestic abuse and violations in the nature of non-domestic abuse for protective-order violations. In most cases, a violation in the nature of domestic abuse can be charged as a separate crime. The current distinction creates needless confusion about the nature of the offense. It also implicitly minimizes violations that only appear trivial when isolated from the abusive context.

S.B. 295 S.D. 1 increases the minimum penalties for violations of temporary restraining orders and violations of protective orders. The Department's legislative package had only conformed the penalties for temporary restraining orders and protective orders. S.B. 295 S.D. 1 does this as well. In principle, we have no objection to increasing the minimum penalties for these offenses. Criminal violations of direct court orders must be evaluated within the context of volatile abusive relationships. We support strong and effective deterrents that might give greater safety and hope for victims of domestic violence.

The chart on the next page illustrates a common scenario where repeated violations of court orders do not result in any meaningful penalty. S.B. 295 S.D. 1 counts violations of the predicate temporary restraining order in determining whether a subsequent violation has occurred. This is a sensible and meaningful deterrent against those who deliberately disobey protective orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

January 1	Jane Doe seeks and receives a TRO against John Doe. Her petition describes prior acts of physical abuse and stalking during their marriage. The Family Court sets a hearing for January 15.
January 2	Officer Roe serves John with the TRO and notifies him of the hearing date.
January 5	John shows up to Jane's workplace with fresh flowers and a brochure from a funeral home. Jane calls the police. John is arrested at the workplace.
January 6	The prosecution charges John with Violation of a TRO as a first offense. John is released at arraignment and given a trial date of February 3. The court orders him to stay away from Jane.
January 10	John shows up to Jane's house at three in morning and knocks on the door. Jane calls the police. John is arrested at her home.
January 11	The prosecution charges John with Violation of a TRO as a first offense (because he has not yet been convicted of the prior violation). John's bail is increased at arraignment. He is given a trial date of February 10 with an intermediate status conference. He posts bail the same day.
January 13	John bails out.
January 15	The Family Court holds a hearing on the protective order. It issues a three-year protective order.
August 4	After several continuances, John is convicted for both Violation of a TRO cases. He receives credit for time served (the two days spent in jail between January 11 and January 13).
August 5	John shows up to Jane's workplace with dead flowers. Jane call the police.
August 6	The prosecution charges John with Violation of a Protective Order as a first offense. John bails out the same day.
April 15 (of the following year)	John is convicted for violating the protective order. Because the violation was not in the nature of domestic abuse, he receives no jail time. The Court orders him to stay away from Jane.
April 16	John shows up to Jane's house at three in the morning and knocks on the door.



March 11, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Chair Lisa Marten
Vice Chair Ikaika Olds
Rep. Terez Amato
Rep. Cory M. Chun
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
Rep. Gregg Takayama
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi
Rep. David Alcos III
Rep. Diamond Garcia

Re: SB295 SD1 Relating to Domestic Abuse Protective Orders

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) addresses the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 25 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of SB295**. The changes to the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), HRS 586-4 and Protection Order (PO), HRS 586-11 statutes included in this measure are intended to meet the needs of those who must seek these actions to protect themselves and their families, by:

1. Instilling survivors' faith in the judicial process and protection orders – that they are more than "just a piece of paper";
2. Holding abusers accountable for the harm they cause to their victims, families, and communities at large;
3. Allowing flexibility in the statute to address abuse amongst family members and intimate partner violence;
4. Preventing the weaponization of this statute against victims of domestic violence; and
5. Ensuring a smooth and expeditious judicial process.

One significant change proposed in this measure is increasing the minimum penalty for a violation of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) or Protection Order (PO) from 48 hours to 5 days. However, in practice, individuals convicted for the first offense of a violation are often credited with time served, resulting in a sentence shorter than the 48-hour minimum.

Additionally, this measure introduces a key provision: if a respondent violates a protection order after previously violating a temporary restraining order under the same case number, it will count as a second or subsequent violation. A violation of an ex-parte emergency TRO demonstrates a pattern of disregard for legal consequences and an escalation of abusive behavior. Under current law, the consequences for the first violation of a protection order under section 586-11 do not adequately address the gravity of the situation or provide sufficient time for survivors (petitioners) to implement critical safety measures, such as relocation.

This measure also removes the distinction between “non-domestic abuse” and “domestic abuse” in HRS 586-11. In practice, this distinction is often tied to the type of abuse—physical versus non-physical. By codifying coercive control in HRS 586-1, we elevate the seriousness of non-physical violence and recognize its devastating impact on survivors.

We support this measure as a step toward addressing the more severe cases of domestic violence and filling critical gaps in the accountability and protection system. A 2014 study examining the effects of sentencing severity on recidivism among domestic violence offenders found that stricter sentencing for domestic violence offenses—compared to non-domestic crimes—was linked to a lower likelihood of reoffending.¹ This reinforces the importance of treating domestic violence with the gravity it deserves, which in turn may reduce the risk of repeat offenses and increase safety for survivors.

We urge you to support SB295 SD1 as a vital step toward improving safety, accountability, and justice for survivors of domestic violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director

¹ “Impact of Differential Sentencing Severity for Domestic Violence Offenses and All Other Offenses Over Abusers’ Life Spans”, available at https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/244757.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com.



To: House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Re: SB 295 SD1 Relating to Domestic Abuse Protective Orders

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference
Tuesday March 11, 2025 10:00AM

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Committee Members,

On behalf of HCANSpeaks!, I am writing in support of SB 295 SD 1. This bill increases the penalties imposed on individuals convicted for violation of a temporary restraining order and order for protection. This measure updates the Temporary Restraining Order (HRS 586-4) and Protection Order (HRS 586-11) statutes to better support those seeking protection by reinforcing survivors' trust that protection orders are more than just "a piece of paper." This bill would help hold abusers accountable for the harm they inflict on victims, families, and communities; provide flexibility to address abuse within families and intimate partner violence; prevent the misuse of this statute against domestic violence victims; and ensure a more efficient and effective judicial process.

This measure proposes increasing the minimum penalty for violating a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) or Protection Order (PO) from 48 hours to 5 days, though in practice, first-time offenders are often credited with time served, leading to sentences shorter than the current 48-hour minimum. It ensures that if a respondent violates a protection order after previously violating a temporary restraining order in the same case, it is treated as a second or subsequent offense. Recognizing that violating an ex-parte emergency TRO signals escalating abuse, the change addresses the inadequacy of current penalties, which fail to reflect the severity of the situation or give survivors enough time to implement safety measures like relocation. This change eliminates the distinction between "non-domestic abuse" and "domestic abuse" in HRS 586-11, recognizing the seriousness of non-physical violence by codifying coercive control in HRS 586-1 and acknowledging its devastating impact on survivors.

HCAN Speaks! supports this measure as a step toward addressing the most serious domestic violence cases and strengthening accountability and protection. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 295 SD 1.**

Sincerely,
Noreen Kohl, Ph.D.
Policy Researcher and Advocate



March 10, 2025

Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
Rep. Terez Amato
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi
Rep. Cory M. Chun
Rep. David Alcos III
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
Rep. Diamond Garcia
Rep. Gregg Takayama

Re: SB295, SD1 Relating to Domestic Abuse Protective Orders - **Support**

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee:

For over 30 years, DVAC has offered services to assist survivors of domestic violence as they navigate the legal and social service systems to establish freedom, safety, and self-sufficiency. We are the only agency in Hawaii for which 100% of the focus is helping survivors of domestic violence or those affected by it.

I am writing to express my strong support for policies and legislation that ensure the effectiveness and reliability of protective orders for survivors of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects individuals, families, and communities, and it is crucial that survivors are provided with the tools and resources they need to feel safe and supported in rebuilding their lives.

One of the most important safety plan tools available to survivors is a Protective Order against domestic violence, which can provide immediate relief by restricting the abusers' access to the victim and their family. It is essential that we create an environment where survivors feel confident that these orders will be enforced and that they will be supported by the legal system. Without this trust, many survivors may hesitate to pursue a protective order, fearing that the legal system will not take their safety seriously or that the abuser will face no real consequences if they violate the order.

For these orders to be effective, survivors must have confidence that law enforcement will respond appropriately to violations, that courts will take these matters seriously, and that there will be real accountability for those who violate these orders. Trusting in a protective order gives survivors the courage to seek justice and the peace of mind that they are no longer alone in their fight for safety.

I submit testimony in **support of SB295** that will instill survivors' faith in the judicial process and protection orders, to demonstrate that it is more than "just a piece of paper", as well as hold abusers accountable for the harm they cause to their victims, families, and communities at large. The bill will allow flexibility in the statute to address abuse amongst family members and intimate partner violence; prevent the weaponization of this statute against victims of domestic violence; and will ensure a smooth and expeditious judicial process.



Thank you for allowing me to testify to this matter. I appreciate the legislators who continue to commit to the protection of survivors and the promotion of safer communities.

Mahalo,

Monique R. Ibarra, MSW
Chief Executive Officer

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 5:00:28 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ha'eHa'e Ani	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha everyone,

I'm here today to urge you to support and pass SB295, a bill that will strengthen protections against domestic violence. Domestic violence has a devastating impact, leaving scars that run deep and affecting not only the direct victims but also their families and communities. The loss of my cousin, Theresa, to this senseless violence is a pain I carry every day. It's a pain compounded by my own experience with domestic abuse. Theresa had so much ahead of her. She was a mother, a daughter, a granddaughter, a sister, a cousin, and a niece – a vibrant, loved individual whose life was tragically cut short. She was granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), a supposed shield of protection, yet not long after, her husband murdered her in front of her own daughter. This horrific act followed weeks of stalking, mental, and emotional abuse directed at Theresa and her children. Her cries for help were ignored; despite her repeated pleas, law enforcement failed to intervene, silencing and dismissing her concerns. The TRO, meant to protect Theresa, ultimately failed her. This highlights a critical flaw in the system that SB295 can help address. It's been one year and almost two months since she was taken from us, a stark reminder of the urgent need for change. No one should have to endure the fear, manipulation, and physical harm that comes with domestic abuse, and no one should be turned away when they desperately seek help. That's why I'm so passionate about supporting and passing this bill.

This bill represents a crucial step towards creating a safer environment for victims of domestic violence. By implementing harsher punishments for offenders, SB295 aims to deter these crimes and hold abusers accountable for their actions. We can't afford to lose any more loved ones to domestic violence, especially when it intersects with gun violence, as it so often does. This bill offers a chance to prevent such tragedies. SB295's increased penalties will send a strong message that our community will not tolerate this behavior.

Beyond punishment, SB295 is about creating a safe space for victims. It's about giving them a voice when they feel they have none. My own experience with the legal system highlighted the urgent need for change. Despite presenting ample evidence – photos, text messages, emails – documenting the abuse I suffered, my ex-husband continued to stalk me, harass me, and mentally and emotionally abuse me even after I was denied a TRO. And even with this evidence, I was not granted a restraining order. The judge dismissed my claims, seemingly swayed by his lawyer's unfounded accusations of mental illness. This is unacceptable. We need judges who practice discernment and officers who uphold and enforce the laws designed to protect victims, like the TRO that failed Theresa. SB295 can help ensure that justice is served and that victims are heard. SB295's provisions for victim support services are crucial for this.

Passing SB295 will send a powerful message: our community does not condone domestic violence. It will send a message that every violator will be held accountable and punished to the full extent of the law. This bill isn't just about legislation; it's about creating a culture where domestic violence is no longer tolerated and where victims are supported and empowered. It's a step towards healing, justice, and preventing further loss. I implore you, for Theresa, for myself, and for all victims of domestic violence, please support and pass SB295. Lives depend on it. Mahalo nui for your time

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:24:34 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracey Erker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.



Theresa's Pu'uwai Legacy

March 8, 2025

Re: SB295 Relating to Domestic Abuse Protective Orders - Support

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

My name is Lucita, and I am the mother of Theresa Cachuela, who was shot and killed by her husband on December 22, 2023.

I strongly support this bill because with the increased time from forty-eight hrs. to 5 days, it will give the victim time to find the right resources that align with their needs. There is not really a program that would meet everyone with their specific need. For example, housing, childcare, financial stability, and mental health counseling.

Theresa was discouraged from applying for state financial assistance by employees at the Department of Human Services, which is why she depended on her husband for financial support. She mentioned that a worker at the Welfare office told her that if they find out she is lying and still with her husband, she could be penalized. She got scared and did not accept the \$1700 food stamps for which she was approved. She also had a challenging time finding a therapist, waiting months for an appointment only for the therapist to say he could not help her after her first session with him. I was and am angry with how they dismissed her cry for help. She needed help and they shut her down with the comments that were made.

My daughter did not deserve to die as with so many others who sought help. I humbly ask that we step up penalties for violating temporary restraining orders with increased fines, minimum sentences, and court-ordered counseling after a first-time violation. I support increased fines to hopefully assist with more funding and other support for survivors struggling to leave their abusers. The abuse Theresa suffered at the hands of her husband was not physical but psychological, which I strongly support in court-ordered counseling and mental health assessments.

I also think there should be more training for officers to take these types of Police calls seriously. Theresa did call 911 for help but was turned away, including police officers asking her if she really wanted to file a police report against her husband. She was, like I said, discouraged at every corner. Just like the welfare office workers and the mental health counselors, if you do not have any encouraging words to say to people who are seeking help, then why are you in your position? Get out and let someone else take over. Someone should be held accountable for what I see as a lack of action.

We want everybody to remember her legacy. How Theresa was there for so many people. How she fought for her own life. How the resources and Law Enforcement failed her.

Please ensure the safety of the current and future victims of any type of violence. This rests upon our lawmakers like yourselves to improve on our justice system. Let us encourage hope and healing in our communities and eventually in our state.

Mahalo and thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Lucita Ani-Nihoa

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:37:48 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Hiʻilani Okimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lily Okimura and I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawai‘i. I am submitting **strong support for SB295** to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:48:34 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Alaniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jessica, and I am a resident of Kailua, Oahu, HI. I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:51:56 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Psalm Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Psalm Aquino, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela's murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority.

Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 6:00:48 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jania Swinton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

While I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

A bill like this has the power to strengthen enforcement of TROs and protective orders, increases jail time and fines to deter violations, require domestic violence intervention and anger management courses which will cause the abusers to understand that their actions do have consequences.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 7:11:07 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Emelia Briscoe and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am submitting **strong support** for **SB295** to increase penalties for violating **temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection** in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is **Theresa Cachuela**, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
-
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
-
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:21:52 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diba Aria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Diba Aria, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:54:31 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mika L	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mika Lindsey, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 11:14:33 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Messing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ben Messing, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ben.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:38:26 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Fitzgerald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kayla Fitzgerald, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 3:29:21 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is matt miller, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 4:35:51 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylene Carela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jaylene Carela, and while I do not reside in Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawaii deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela's murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawaii can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority.

Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 4:50:14 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Naomi and while I do not reside in Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawaii deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela's murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband-just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawaii can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority.

Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:38:48 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Woods-Ndiaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marie Woods-Ndiaye, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:40:52 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please help to protect the victims of domestic violence and stalking.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:23:32 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addyson Deans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Addyson Deans, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:59:06 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaelyn Blonder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is [Your Name], and I am a resident of [Your City, Hawai‘i]. I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:56:57 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlot Meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Charlot A. Meyer, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:44:36 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chazz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

My name is Chazz Okimura, a resident of Honolulu, HI. I am submitting testimony in strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Domestic violence survivors in Hawai'i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai'i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:02:32 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sodia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sodia, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.

Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.

Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:49:10 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Faue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an advocate at the Domestic Violence Action Center. I work with survivors of domestic violence. This legislation is absolutely imperative to improving the safety of our community. Too many times, survivors have taken the brave step of obtaining an order for protection. And too many times, the system has failed them. Too many times, survivors ask themselves, "What was the point?" Too many times, survivors find themselves increasingly vulnerable because they reached out for help, and the justice system turned a blind eye to the escalation of their abuser. Leaving is the most dangerous time for a survivor. This has been established. How can someone leave their abuser, go through the trauma of obtaining the order for protection/temporary restraining order, just to see that the worst their abuser gets is a proverbial slap on the wrist?

Going to the courthouse, an unfamiliar place, and writing/talking about the worst experiences of their lives, is terrifying for a survivor. Telling a judge, a stranger in a black robe, these experiences, is terrifying. Doing so with their abuser in the room, even more so. Knowing that their abuser might follow them home, even more so. So many times, survivors don't call the police or seek legal action because they have been threatened against it. "If you call the cops, I will... tell them you started it, tell them you're undocumented, tell them you're crazy, tell them you're an addict." "If you call the cops, I'll kill you as soon as they leave." "If you call the cops, I'll have my cousins go after your parents." These are all real examples of threats survivors have heard to deter them from getting help. Thus, filing for a TRO is not only scary in that it is retraumatizing, it is scary because there is an increased risk for escalated violence.

After the process is complete, with either a TRO or an OFP in hand, many survivors don't feel much safer. They know that it is just a piece of paper. Their abusers know it is just a piece of paper. What makes it a real source of protection is the police's ability (and willingness) to enforce it and the court's ability (and willingness) to take violations seriously.

Many abusers have been to jail before. They have paid their bail and walked back into the community. They find their friends with the illegal firearms. The consequences as they are now do not effectively deter violations.

It is up to the legislature to decide if a TRO/OFP is a piece of paper or an actual safeguard against further abuse. **I compel the legislature to remember Theresa Cachuela.** The system as it stands was not enough to save her life. The system as it stands will allow other survivors to

perish. Simply put, what we have is not enough. Please take into consideration the fact that domestic violence is a lethal epidemic. Please take the opportunity to do something about it.

Mahalo for your time,

Respectfully,

Lauren Faue

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:56:33 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
zlee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Zlee, and while I do not reside in Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawaii deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela's murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband-just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawaii can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority.

Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:22:00 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Berry Zhang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Berry Zhang, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:38:34 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:06:37 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harper Doane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Harper Doane and I am a resident of Kailua, Hawaii. I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers. I personally have dealt with domestic abuse yet my abuser faced little to no consequences.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:43:52 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Layla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Layla, and while I do not reside in Hawai'i, I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai'i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai'i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:41:54 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of SB295**. The changes to the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), HRS 586-4 and Protection Order (PO), HRS 586-11 statutes included in this measure are intended to meet the needs of those who must seek these actions to protect themselves and their families, by:

1. Instilling survivors' faith in the judicial process and protection orders – that they are more than “just a piece of paper”;
2. Holding abusers accountable for the harm they cause to their victims, families, and communities at large;
3. Allowing flexibility in the statute to address abuse amongst family members and intimate partner violence;
4. Preventing the weaponization of this statute against victims of domestic violence; and
5. Ensuring a smooth and expeditious judicial process.

One significant change proposed in this measure is increasing the minimum penalty for a violation of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) or Protection Order (PO) from 48 hours to 5 days. However, in practice, individuals convicted for the first offense of a violation are often credited with time served, resulting in a sentence shorter than the 48-hour minimum.

Additionally, this measure introduces a key provision: if a respondent violates a protection order after previously violating a temporary restraining order under the same case number, it will count as a second or subsequent violation. A violation of an ex-parte emergency TRO demonstrates a pattern of disregard for legal consequences and an escalation of abusive behavior. Under current law, the consequences for the first violation of a protection order under section 586-11 do not

adequately address the gravity of the situation or provide sufficient time for survivors (petitioners) to implement critical safety measures, such as relocation.

This measure also removes the distinction between “non-domestic abuse” and “domestic abuse” in HRS 586-11. In practice, this distinction is often tied to the type of abuse—physical versus non-physical. By codifying coercive control in HRS 586-1, we elevate the seriousness of non-physical violence and recognize its devastating impact on survivors.

We support this measure as a step toward addressing the more severe cases of domestic violence and filling critical gaps in the accountability and protection system. A 2014 study examining the effects of sentencing severity on recidivism among domestic violence offenders found that stricter sentencing for domestic violence offenses—compared to non-domestic crimes—was linked to a lower likelihood of reoffending. This reinforces the importance of treating domestic violence with the gravity it deserves, which in turn may reduce the risk of repeat offenses and increase safety for survivors.

We urge you to support SB295 SD1 as a vital step toward improving safety, accountability, and justice for survivors of domestic violence.

Thank you, Pannelopi McKenzie

March 9, 2025

Dear Reps. Marten, Olds, Chun, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Takayama, Takenouchi, Alcos & Garcia,

My name is Katherine Villanueva and I write to you as a former child witness, survivor, and victim-advocate for domestic violence in the First Circuit Family Court from the Domestic Violence Action Center as recently as August 2024. I write in unwavering support of SB295 to increase and expand the penalties for TRO violations and standardize the actions of the family court and criminal court judges' actions on domestic abuse cases.

In the cases I have worked on from 2023-2024, nearly all victims have shared incidents of contacting HPD to serve, enforce, and intercept the respondents on their petitions to prevent further abuse and harm. They were met with ignorance on the part of HPD where their concerns were dismissed. Even in the cases where HPD responded, the actions of the responding officers were disappointing and obviously lacked competence in their responsibilities to these orders. Therefore, the information elevated to the prosecutors was insufficient in building cases to charge perpetrators accordingly. Many times, HPD's response took upwards of 2 hours for arrival and the calls to dispatch were responded to as non-emergencies. When I, myself, called HPD on behalf of clients, I was told by operators to hang up and call the non-emergency number because all units were out dealing with "more urgent matters." The complicity of HPD in their duties has directly led to the preventable escalation in several of our most lethal cases and victims were left without protection or support by public servants.

In addition to Theresa Cachuela's preventable murder that inspired this bill, I share with you additional instances of lethal escalation where HPD and the courts failed to act in accordance with the presiding TRO:

- 1) In 2023-2024, a victim made multiple attempts to file TROs after being threatened by her abuser to kidnap her children and harm her family. HPD took her statements but did not actively try to pursue the individual. He had time to leisurely flee the property after she called 911 as HPD had no urgency to respond. The extended wait times and ignorant comments from responding officers lead her to lose faith in the judicial system's ability to keep her safe. During these incidents, the respondent made multiple threats to escalate the violence to lethal levels and coerced her to drop her petitions twice. He cited the multiple occasions that he was able to harass her and her family at their home without consequences. She eventually gave up hope in the system and safety planned in isolation with her family. Then, the violence escalated and the respondent showed up to her family home with a firearm and shot her father after he demanded the respondent leave. All the while, the victim and the children-in-common were hiding in the back of the unit, hearing her father in agony. Only then did HPD respond with urgency to an attempted murder but did not apprehend the individual until he voluntarily turned himself in over a week later.
- 2) Between 2023-2024, a known and frequent respondent in the First Circuit court coerced his girlfriend (victim 1) using patterned physical assaults and lethal threats to force her to stalk his estranged wife (victim 2) on his behalf. Victim 2 filed a TRO which HPD failed to

respond to on multiple occasions that occurred almost daily. In fact, HPD asked victim 2 why she CHOSE to continue living in the area if she felt unsafe. HPD would fail to respond appropriately and allow the respondent to flee the scene and did not proactively investigate or search for him. HPD told her to just call back if he or victim 1 on his behalf appeared again but perpetuated their failure to act and allowed the cycle of abuse to continue. Victim 1 filed a TRO as a result of the abuse she endured but experienced prolonged litigation on the Family Court calendars due to delayed service by HPD failing to locate the respondent to serve him. Several months later, while awaiting for the next Order to Show Cause (OSC) hearing, the respondent attempted to shoot the girlfriend and pursued her in his car, continuing to shoot into her car and ramming her off the road. Miraculously, victim 1 was able to escape on her own and the respondent in this case was also at-large until voluntarily turning himself in several days later. This was concurrent to victim 2's TRO litigation and divorce proceedings.

- 3) In 2023, a victim walked away from the Kapolei Courthouse after an OSC when the respondent pulled up next to her in his truck, yelled profanities at her, and sped away in an act of intimidation. She ran to safety and called advocates to report the incident which occurred right outside of court property and HPD was called to the scene. Responding officers had to be encouraged to take her statement amid a language barrier with the victim after attempting to provide undocumented safety planning. She was not provided with an interpreter and a friend had to assist in communication after urging officers to respond appropriately. This case was escalated to the prosecutor but throughout the process, the victim faced unnecessary language access barriers. The prosecution for the violation (and additional incidents of violations on the same order) took so long that the abuser was able to weaponize the custody case and co-parenting app to intimidate the victim. The criminal courts dismissed the case and reprimanded her for being an unreliable witness as she struggled to make her case while navigating a language access right violation that the courts failed to mediate by providing appropriate resources to ensure that she was well educated through this process.

These are just three examples of the more than 200 cases that I have been able to intercept at my job as an advocate. I have provided services in many cases in which victims were scolded, ridiculed, and humiliated by judges for not being the "perfect victims." Deplorable comments were made on record in response to actions victims resorted to for their safety when HPD and the courts failed. In domestic violence, there are no perfect victims and those responsible for the care of these cases need to act in a more proactive and trauma-informed manner. Judges need to order the appropriate fact-finding assessments such as substance use assessment, psychiatric evaluations, and investigations with Child Welfare Services in order to acquire adequate information, supplement verbal testimonies and come to an appropriate ruling. Additionally, penalties for non-compliance to the rulings should be reviewed as contempt of court and insubordination should not be overlooked by these judges and HPD upon enforcement. Having a "packed schedule" is not a viable excuse to force a victim into a short-cut agreement to preserve a judge's patience or attention span. It is not the responsibility of the parties to bear the burden of the judge's incompetence or gaps in knowledge. TRO service and

March 9, 2025

enforcement are absolute emergencies and are often the thin line that separates an unwanted interaction from life and death.

Sincerely,

Katherine Villanueva, MPH
Residing in Honolulu, HI 96822

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:57:30 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Sabado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tiffany Sabado, and I am a resident of Kaneohe, Hawai‘i. I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 2:35:15 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leian Ahmed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Leian Ahmed, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:07:50 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexiah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexiah Nuno-Herrera, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:02:26 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lisa Schattenburg Raymond, and I am a resident of Kula, Hawai‘i. I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:22:51 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice de Jong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alice, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

I, as a survivor, would have wanted more protection from my government. I got 0 support, the person who did this to me hasn't spent a second in jail. I want no other woman to ever have to go through that.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.

Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.

Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:55:20 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shereen Balles	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Senate Chair and Board,

I am in strong support of this Bill.

As a former survivor of domestic violence, I can attest to how broken the system is. In the end, I was able to get a 30 year order of protection for myself and my 4 children. I was denied the 1st time. But thankfully was able to secure our order of protection against my abuser who threatened every member in my 'ohana that he would kill us and put us on the news and make us a statistic when he is released from jail. We believed we were in imminent danger and feared for our lives.

Most TRO requests meant for people who need protection from their abuser is denied because a large population of people in the past have misused their TRO's in divorces or relationships gone wrong. So when a person who the TRO is designed for comes in to request one, it automatically gets denied.

The survivors of domestic violence should not have to wrestle with the staff at the TRO office to help them through the process of obtaining a restraining order. Clear steps needs to be taken to assist those who need protection.

That being said, nor should the convicted be allowed to skip out on paying a fee for a 2nd or 3rd or whatever time he or she broke the law of each particular TRO. If they offended, that is the consequence.

In this day and age, what it comes down to is accountability and responsibility.

Kuleana.

So please pass BILL 295 in order to help bring peace and safety to the many survivors of domestic violence.

Again, I am grateful that you are hearing this bill and you all will understand how important it is to protect 1 in 3 people in the population who are affected by this plague.

Mahālo nūnui,

Shereen Balles

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:54:16 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing in strong support of SB295 SD1 because safety and protection are paramount for people experiencing and escaping domestic violence. This bill offers critical protection for victims by imposing significant penalties on people who violate restraining orders. Domestic violence in Hawaii is a generational problem that disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian women. The way to disrupt this horrible cycle is by enforcing stronger laws. Fortunately, this bill also has remedial spirit by requiring offenders to complete courses that can prevent future occurrences of violent behavior. This is a crucial acknowledgment that violence is cyclical and often learned. This bill is a step in the right direction to reducing the incidence of violence in Hawaii while protecting victims who need it most.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kekoaopololu Kealoha

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:32:30 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Hoyt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sam Hoyt, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:20:00 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Bill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jody Bill, and I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawai‘i. I am submitting strong support for SB295 to increase penalties for violating temporary restraining orders (TROs) and orders for protection in domestic abuse cases.

We have seen too many cases where abusers violate TROs with little to no consequences, leading to devastating outcomes. One heartbreaking example is Theresa Cachuela, who was murdered by her estranged husband just days after receiving a restraining order against him. Her case is not unique—domestic violence survivors in Hawai‘i continue to face life-threatening danger because current laws do not do enough to deter abusers.

It is widely known that TROs are easily violated by domestic abusers, and this discourages victims to seek help. I, personally, was a victim of domestic violence who did not seek a TRO because I did not feel I would be protected by the consequences of TRO violations by my abuser.

SB295 is critical because it:

- Increases mandatory jail time and fines for violating TROs and protective orders.**
- Requires domestic violence intervention programs to address the root causes of abuse.**
- Ensures courts consider financial ability before issuing fines.**

This bill is about preventing future violence and protecting survivors. Survivors in Hawai‘i deserve laws that actually keep them safe. Please pass SB295 to help make that a reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jody Bill

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:30:08 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want the TRO laws much stricter! The system fails so many of us women. I have a 10 year TRO with me and my daughter BOTH on it. I don't understand how or why he would be able to fight for visitation rights when I have a TRO with both of us on it. If I submit a photo of him holding a gun how or why should I need to prove if it is real or not?! If our abuser violates his TRO he needs to be locked up this is out lives we are talking about. We have children we need to take care of and a lot of the times us women are the better parent they child should not be with a parent who abused the mother of their child nearly taking her life. Who's to say he wouldn't to it to his child. Drug/anger management does not work! They know how to fake the funk and will play the role just to get custody and use the child as a weapon put them away if they violate lock them up! We should feel safe walking outside our homes! Nobody should fear living! Anyone who violates the TRO is aware of the rules and need to deal with the consequences they need to be held accountable!! I had a crack skull brain bleed, multiple face fractures and was burnt with a torch of he violates lock him up the court systems already failed me by letting him off not guilty bkz I don't have memory of the incident bkz of the injuries I sustained cause me to loose memory! Lock them up don't be easy on them!

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:38:57 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-295-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:01:43 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gina huang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gina Huang, and while I do not reside in Hawai‘i, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB295 because domestic violence is a crisis that affects all communities. The people of Hawai‘i deserve laws that truly protect survivors.

Cases like Theresa Cachuela’s murder have made national headlines, showing how dangerous it is when abusers are not held accountable. Despite having a restraining order, Theresa was killed by her estranged husband—just days after she sought protection. Her story is one of many, and without stronger laws, more lives will be lost.

This bill is essential because it:

- Strengthens enforcement of TROs and protective orders.
- Increases jail time and fines to deter violations.
- Requires domestic violence intervention and anger management courses.

By passing SB295, Hawai‘i can set an example for other states by showing that protecting survivors is a priority. Please pass this bill and help prevent future tragedies.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

March 10, 2025

TO: The Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Brookelyn Freeman
Private Citizen

SUBJECT: Support for SB295 SD1 – Domestic Abuse Protective Orders

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brookelyn Freeman and I am a graduate student at UHM. The views I am expressing in this testimony are my own and don't necessarily reflect UHM. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of **SB295 SD1** because survivors of domestic abuse deserve stronger legal protection.

Protective orders are one of the most important legal tools for survivors trying to leave an abusive situation, but too often, they don't go far enough. Survivors already face so many barriers: fear, financial instability, emotional trauma, and often a legal system that feels confusing and difficult to navigate. Studies have found that restraining orders are violated nearly 40% of the time, leaving survivors vulnerable even after seeking legal protection.

I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be for survivors to get the protection and support they need. Many don't know their rights, struggle to get legal help or feel like no one will believe them. For those who do seek protective orders, enforcement can be inconsistent, leaving them vulnerable when they need protection the most.

Holding offenders accountable while offering opportunities for rehabilitation is a great way to protect survivors and prevent further harm. Increased penalties for restraining order violations, along with options like sobriety and intervention programs, help ensure these orders are taken seriously while addressing a root cause.

This bill is an important step in making sure our laws actually work for the people who need them. I encourage you to pass SB295 SD1 and take action to make Hawai'i a safer place for survivors and their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brookelyn Freeman
Social Work Student