



To: Chair Luke
Vice Chair Cullen
Members of the Committee
Fr: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer
Re: HB 2425 HD1; Support

Aloha. Thank you for placing this Bill on the agenda for discussion and deliberation. We have learned so much about the crime of domestic violence these last 30 years. There are many and varied ways used to harass or control partners, that had not been considered domestic violence, by definition.

It is important for us to name the behaviors and hold abusers accountable for their perpetration of abuse, even when it doesn't leave a visible bruise.

This has the potential, of course, to arouse resistance and controversy. Those of us who have been working with survivors recognize the behavior included in this Bill, and have heard it described multiple times by many clients. It is clearly time to believe victims when they describe the lengths their abusers go to control them, isolate them, restrain them from contact with family and friends, withhold resources, threaten them, and harass them into obedience. It is when we face the dark and hidden behaviors that we can effectively address the epidemic we see at schools,

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTER
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3198, HONOLULU, HI 96801-3198
LEGAL HELPLINE: (808) 531-3771
TOLL-FREE NEIGHBOR ISLAND HELPLINE: (800) 690-6200
WEBSITE: WWW.DOMESTICVIOLENCEACTIONCENTER.ORG
EMAIL: DVAC@STOPTHEVIOLENCE.ORG



businesses, medical settings, courtrooms, churches, community based organizations, therapists offices and domestic violence shelters.

We shall look forward to favorable action on HB 2425 HD1. Thank you.

DATE: February 21, 2020

TO: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair and Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: Barbara Gerbert, PhD

Professor Emeritus, University of California San Francisco

RE: HB2425

Hearing scheduled Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha. My name is Barbara Gerbert, PhD, and I am Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), as well as a constituent from Hawai'i Island, where I've lived since 2012.

I am writing in support of HB2425

My 40-year career at UCSF began with entrance into a doctoral program in 1975. I earned my doctorate in Health Psychology there in 1982, and I served as tenured faculty and Chair of the Behavioral Sciences Division until my retirement.

My passion and expertise is in domestic violence. My academic work as a professor at UCSF highlighted research studies of the important role that health care professionals (specifically physicians and dentists) play, in addressing domestic violence (DV). I also developed tutorials to improve health care professionals' response to DV, including the "AVDR" (Ask, Validate, Document, and Refer) method I developed, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

I have published over 120 peer-reviewed manuscripts, many on domestic violence and simple ways that health care professionals (HCP) can ask patients about domestic violence in their lives and validate their experiences, offering hope and always leaving the door open for further discussion. My research has shown that minor changes in HCP behaviors can lead to big changes in the environment for victims of abuse.

In 2015, I was driving toward Waimea from the Kona coast, listening to

National Public Radio. I heard a piece about a new law that had been enacted in England and Wales, targeting people who coercively control their intimate partner or other family members. Shortly thereafter, Scotland added this law to their legislation as well.

I immediately pulled over to the side of the road, with tears in my eyes, a rapid heartbeat, and chicken skin. I had just given a presentation on domestic violence at Tutu's House in Waimea, emphasizing the long-lasting harm of coercive control. My audience, to a person, had experienced coercive control themselves or to friends, family members, and co-workers. A law against coercive control, with all it entails, would be a godsend in Hawai'i!

I am very familiar with Scotland's groundbreaking work to alleviate DV. In 2009 Linda Borland, a police officer from Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), contacted me, asking if she could use my AVDR (Ask, Validate, Document, and Refer) model. Not long after, Dr. Christine Goodall, an oral surgeon, updated me on Scotland's efforts to reduce violence, with AVDR as the centerpiece.*

Dr. Goodall, as the founder and head of Medics against Violence Scotland (MAVScotland) focuses on the role of health care professionals parallel to my focus. She also encourages health care professionals to work with all professions in preventing and reducing DV.

In England, Scotland, and Wales, it is illegal to coercively control an intimate partner. As a result, Scotland, once known internationally for high rates of violence, including gang violence, family violence, etc., is now a role model internationally for reducing violence. Glasgow went from being called the "murder capital of Europe" to an exemplar of non-violence.

The enactment of HB2425 would educate our Hawai'i citizens to the great burden that coercive control places on our people and our state, and abusers would learn that this abuse is not acceptable.

In my 7 years living fulltime in Hawai'i, I have observed the power of the family, the closeness and bonds of family, that create a warm, loving, kind, and gentle atmosphere. Once HB2425 is in place, programs can be implemented to heal, nurture, and enhance this natural warmth of that family culture here in Hawai'i—and help reduce coercive control and violence that destroy it.

Please VOTE YES on HB2425.

Mahalo,

Barbara Gerbert, PhD

Professor Emeritus

University of California San Francisco

barbara.gerbert@ucsf.edu

415-385-9831

*This very powerful 5-minute training video developed by MAVScotland and the Violence Reduction Unit of the Scottish Police emphasizes AVDR, which I developed and distribute internationally (copyright UCSF).

“Harder” <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ay4dQy6vzPI>

Barbara Gerbert, PhD
Joshua Gerbert, DPM

59-120 Laninui Drive
PO Box 44505
Kamuela, HI 96743

February 21, 2020

Dear Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair and Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Position on HB2425: Support

My name is Joshua Gerbert, DPM, a board certified foot and ankle surgeon who practiced in San Francisco for 45 years before retiring to the Big Island 7.5 years ago. In my practice I had the occasion of seeing women who were coercively abused and discovered that there were no laws that protected them.

I am writing to express my support of Bill HB 2425 in that it is long overdue. The trauma these women experience are as severe as physical abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Sincerely,

Joshua Gerbert, DPM, FACFAS
59-210 Laninui Drive
Kamuela, HI 96743

Position on HB 2425: Support

HB-2425-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 8:21:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Ota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Representative Luke and Vice-Chair Representative Cullen

House Committee on Finance

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 12:00 pm

Dear Honorable Representative Chair Luke and Vice-Chair Cullen and House Finance Committee,

I am Dr. Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc, a resident of the Big Island, current President of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association, and a long time advocate in my professional and private life to protect the public from the insidiousness and reality of domestic abuse in all its forms in our State of Hawaii. Please, support HB2425 SD 1 and help in the protection for all members of our families. Coercive control and all its definitions clarifies abuse and will provide means for our citizens' to live in a viable, safe environment in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of HB2425 SD1.

Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc



LATE

To: Chair Luke
Vice Chair Cullen
Members of the Committee
Fr: Dr. Eileen Gawrys
Member, Board of Directors, Domestic Violence Center
Re: HB 2425 HD1; Support

Aloha. Thank you for placing this Bill on the agenda for discussion and deliberation. We have learned so much about the crime of domestic violence these last 30 years. There are many and varied ways used to harass or control partners, that had not been considered domestic violence, by definition.

It is important for us to name the behaviors and hold abusers accountable for their perpetration of abuse, even when it doesn't leave a visible bruise.

This has the potential, of course, to arouse resistance and controversy. Those of us who have been working with survivors recognize the behavior included in this Bill, and have heard it described multiple times by many clients. It is clearly time to believe victims when they describe the lengths their abusers go to control them, isolate them, restrain them from contact with family and friends, withhold resources, threaten them, and harass them into obedience. It is when we face the dark and hidden behaviors that we can effectively address the epidemic we see at schools,

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTER

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3198, HONOLULU, HI 96801-3198

LEGAL HELPLINE: (808) 531-3771

TOLL-FREE NEIGHBOR ISLAND HELPLINE: (800) 690-6200

WEBSITE: WWW.DOMESTICVIOLENCEACTIONCENTER.ORG

EMAIL: DVAC@STOPTHEVIOLENCE.ORG



businesses, medical settings, courtrooms, churches, community based organizations, therapists offices and domestic violence shelters.

We shall look forward to favorable action on HB 2425 HD1. Thank you.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTER

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3198, HONOLULU, HI 96801-3198

LEGAL HELPLINE: (808) 531-3771

TOLL-FREE NEIGHBOR ISLAND HELPLINE: (800) 690-6200

WEBSITE: WWW.DOMESTICVIOLENCEACTIONCENTER.ORG

EMAIL: DVAC@STOPTHEVIOLENCE.ORG

LATE

HB-2425-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 8:50:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelby Loo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 23, 2020

Honorable Sylvia Luke

Finance Committee

Committee Chair

Room 306, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96913

Honorable Ty J. K. Cullen

Finance Committee

Vice Chair

Room 316, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96913

RE: Bill HB2425

Dear Representative Sylvia Luke and Representative Ty J. K. Cullen,

My name is Shelby Loo and I am a resident from District 7 on the Big Island.

I am writing to express my support for HB 2425 - Relating to Domestic Abuse. This bill amends the definition of domestic abuse to include "coercive control" between family and household members and defines coercive control. I wanted to encourage you, as Chairs of the relevant Committees, to hear this bill because it will allow for greater protections for victims of domestic abuse.

Thank you for your time!

Shelby Loo

66-1803 Alaneo Street

Kamuela, HI 96743

(808)989-8125



Parents And
Children Together

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

LATE

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: February 25, 2020; 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2425 HD 1 – RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

We urge you to support HB 2425 HD 1 which amends the definition of "domestic abuse" under Hawaii's insurance laws and laws relating to domestic abuse protective orders to include coercive control between family or household members and defines "coercive control". Under current law, many survivors of domestic abuse are not protected from the harassment, control and abuse they have endured, particularly if the abuse doesn't leave a visible bruise or mark. The inclusion of language that describes physical, verbal, psychological, economic and mental abuse tactics, as well as threats and intimidation, isolation and single or repeated hostile, controlling and threatening acts will help to appropriately define and reflect the tactics used by abusers to exert power and control over victims.

Domestic violence survivors not only endure the trauma of the abuse itself but are often left to deal with picking up the pieces in the wake of the drama and destruction without proper protection from our justice system. This bill would support survivors by validating their experiences and making it possible to hold offenders accountable.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 2425 HD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.