



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 826, RELATING TO SEX OFFENDERS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 **TIME:** 9:31 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Michelle M.L. Puu,
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1160)

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General appreciates the intent of this bill but respectfully opposes it in light of constitutional and practical considerations.

This bill seeks to prohibit a covered offender from residing within 2,000 feet of his/her victim or the victim's immediate family member (spouse, parent, child, or grandparent). It further requires the Department of the Attorney General to engage in rule making, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to develop a procedure to effectuate this prohibition.

The Sex Offender Registry has routinely received significant scrutiny in our court system. In response, these requirements have been revised so as to withstand constitutional privacy, due process, equal protection, and cruel and unusual punishment challenges. Up until now, registration was designed exclusively to equip the public with the ability to identify where these individuals might be located at a given time in our community. The registration did not restrict a covered offender's movement, it simply required that particular movements be reported to ensure that the stored information was current.

Conversely, this bill seeks to restrict the covered offender's ability to relocate by limiting where the offender may take up residence. This restriction of movement will receive strict scrutiny as to whether the offender's constitutional freedoms are

impermissibly abridged. Certainly, our courts will recognize the compelling governmental interest in protecting victims from their offenders. However, that interest must be achieved in a measured manner. Likely, our courts will want to examine whether orders for protection are a more appropriate tool to accomplish the intent of this bill.

Moreover, there are practical concerns as to how this Department will go about overseeing and administering this restriction. First, victim information is rightfully guarded and not readily available to this Department. Second, maintaining and ensuring the accuracy of this information initially and for the duration of a covered offender's registration period will be a daunting task. Third, the development of a monitoring system will require added expense and resources during an already strained financial situation. Fourth, a victim might not want an offender to have any information as to the residential whereabouts of those sought to be protected by this bill—certainly a rejection of approval (pursuant to this provision) would readily provide sensitive information to the covered offender. Fifth, one cannot ignore the potential for abuse whereby a victim or immediate family member might resort to providing residential information in a manner that would effectively prevent an offender's ability to relocate.

Finally, although the provisions of this bill apply to "covered offenders," the subject of this bill as expressed in its title is "sex offenders." The definition of "covered offender" in section 846E-1, HRS, includes both sex offenders and offenders against minors and "offender against minor" is defined to *not* be "sex offenders." Section 14 of article III of the State Constitution provides in part that "[e]ach law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." Because the single subject of this bill as expressed in its title is "sex offenders," the provisions of this bill that apply to "offenders against minors" are in violation of the single-subject requirement of section 14 of article III of the State Constitution.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully ask the Committee to hold this bill.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

February 24, 2021

S.B. No. 826: RELATING TO SEX OFFENDERS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender opposes S.B. No. 826.

The bill as written may lead to violations of the law which are completely unintended and will create restrictions that not all victims or family members of victims may want or support.

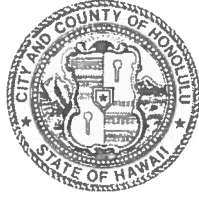
We acknowledge the need for residential housing restrictions for victims or family members of victims. However, not all victims or their families are interested or seek these restrictions imposed without their input. The language of this provision removes the valued input from the victim to determine whether a housing restriction is wanted or needed. The provision fails to take into consideration that perpetrators and victims may be members of the same family, and that victims and families may wish to support a perpetrator who has taken the time to seek treatment, education, and therapy with the support of their family. Our concern is that the provision does not allow for input from those it seeks to “protect” and may hinder restorative justice, impede family reunification, and may prevent probationers or parolees from seeking the help and support that they may need at the time of re-entry to successfully find appropriate housing with family members, especially if those families want reunification.

We strongly encourage this Committee to consider amendments to this provision that would allow exceptions upon approval of the victim or the victim’s immediate family members.

Mahalo and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE RP-KK

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 826, Relating to Sex Offenders

I am Randall Platt, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 826, Relating to Sex Offenders.

The HPD recognizes that the trauma of a sexual assault can be multifaceted and long lasting. Seeing the offender can bring back memories of the assault and cause the victim to be fearful of engaging in necessary everyday tasks. Prohibiting the offender from living within 2,000 feet of the victim or the victim's immediate family provides a small safety zone for the victim to be without fear of "running into" or coming upon a chance encounter with the offender.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 826, Relating to Sex Offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Handwritten signature of Randall Platt in black ink.

Randall Platt, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 826
RELATING TO SEX OFFENDERS.

by

Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 24, 2021; 9:31 a.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **opposes** Senate Bill (SB) 826, which seeks, in part, to prohibit a sex offender from residing within two thousand feet of the sex offender's former victim or the victim's immediate family member(s) and to require covered sex offenders to receive approval from the Attorney General before changing addresses.

The Department notes that sex offenders released on parole fall under the sole jurisdiction of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), which works closely with PSD staff to review and approve sex offender residences prior to their release on parole. Any subsequent change of address for a sex offender under parole supervision must also be approved by the HPA. Moreover, neither the sex offender nor the HPA has any way of knowing the residence address of a former victim or of family member(s). As written, this measure appears to circumvent the authority of the HPA relating to the approval of initial residences and subsequent relocation to new residences for sex offenders paroled by the HPA.

The Department is also concerned about incarcerated sex offenders whose terms are nearing completion and will require housing upon release.

Testimony on Senate Bill 826
Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 24, 2021
Page 2

Finding housing for released offenders is one of the most difficult barriers to their successful reentry to the community. If enacted, SB 826 will further hamper sex offenders' progression to becoming productive community members.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully opposes SB 826.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

CLAYTON H.W. HEE
FITUINA F. TUA
MEMBERS

ANDREW MORGAN
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 826
RELATING TO SEX OFFENDERS**

By
Andrew Morgan
Acting Paroles & Pardons Administrator
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 9:31 a.m.
Via Videoconference – State Capitol

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports the intent of Senate Bill 826 which seeks to restrict sex offenders from residing within two thousand feet from the victim or the victim's immediate family. However, we do not support obtaining approval from the Attorney General's office prior to moving.

HPA agrees that a sex offender should not reside near the victim and establishing boundaries will assist in the supervision of the offender. HPA believes that the most qualified person to determine suitable residence for a sex offender would be the offender's Parole Officer who interacts with the offender on a regular basis. Waiting for approval from the Attorney General's office would not only delay the movement of the offender but prevent the parole officer from making critical decisions regarding the offender's residence.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 826.

SB-826

Submitted on: 2/19/2021 5:07:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2021 9:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support SB826. Anything we can do to protect victims from sexual predators should be enacted. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

Secretary, Rainbow Family 808

Date: February 22, 2021

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K Tam, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy
Re: Support for SB826, Relating to sex offenders

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide, cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS strongly supports the passage of SB826. Research shows that exposure to sustained trauma within the first five years of life can have lasting effects on brain development and long-term health outcomes. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and early trauma, such as chronic child abuse and neglect, to include sexual violence, impede on healthy early brain development. Secure and safe relationships buffer keiki's hormonal stress response and therefore, protects the developing brain from harmful effects of stress hormones.

A 2005 study on rates of sexual recidivism found an average rate of 11.1% for treated sex offenders and 17.5 percent for untreated sex offenders. The average recidivism rate for any crime was 22.4% for treated sex offenders and 32.5% for untreated sex offenders. Protecting our keiki and `ohana from repeat and potentially retributive offenses is critical, especially given the secretive and concealed nature of sexual violence.

Abuse and neglect, are on the rise in Hawai'i, due to the stressors of the COVID19 pandemic and have ripple effects into our communities. By further distancing a perpetrator from survivors, you will be protecting survivors while still providing opportunities for the perpetrator to heal.

Mahalo for your consideration in supporting SB826.

SB-826

Submitted on: 2/19/2021 8:29:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2021 9:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I SUPPOR sb826 with amendments suggested by AG.

If possible, Please submit testimony in “support with amendments,” asking for these 2 amendments:

1) Ask that the HI Paroling Authority be the one to regulate where the perpetrator resides rather than the Attorney General's Office; and

2) Replace “covered offender” with “sex offender” throughout the bill.

Mahalo... (i would prefer the perpetrator not be allowed to live in the same city).

christine johnson

Kihei Maui 96753

SB-826

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:06:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2021 9:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposing SB826. Is it fair to pinpoint one type of crime and put so many restrictions on it than others? How does it help the person to return to society when he/she becomes part of the homeless community and can't find employment? Don't we incarcerate offenders to prepare them to join our community without further punishing them?

Mahalo for your consideration to oppose SB826.

e. ileina funakoshi

Executive Director
Cindy Shimomi-Saito

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Joshua A. Wisch

Date: February 24, 2021

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Cindy Shimomi-Saito, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of HSB 826, Relating to Sex Offenders.

Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, Via videoconference

Good morning Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) is in support of SB 826.

Such a ban would result in a feeling of heightened safety for many survivors. Too often, survivors in treatment have shared the ongoing fear and torment experienced due to the offender living near to them. The offender does not need to say a word; just the sheer knowledge of the offender's proximity fuels a sense of powerlessness and perpetuates feelings of victimization. Other survivors may be unaware of where their offender resides; knowing that a residential restriction is in place could reduce hypervigilance and promote a sense of increased safety. In the case of family-related offenses, this measure could alleviate family and cultural pressures sometimes placed on the victim to agree to the offending family member living nearby; it would not be up to the victim if the ban was instituted automatically. In cases where family reunification is the goal, it would be beneficial if the family could petition the court for an exception to an automatic ban.

The SATC favors measures to heighten victim safety. SB 826 promotes not only the physical safety of the survivor, but also supports the survivor's emotional and psychological safety. We strongly support the passing of SB 826.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SB-826

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:41:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2021 9:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shereen Balles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

January 30, 2020

To: The Honorable Chair and Committee Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Re: SB826: Relating to Sex Offenders. This bill will prohibit a Sex offender from residing within 2,000 feet of the sex offender's former victim or the victim's family members.

I SUPPORT SB2266. This is an important bill for Hawaii.

To all of you seated, I request your full attention to this matter that affects a huge portion of the community, more so now since a huge portion of Hawaii's population have had to stay home since the start of the Corona Virus pandemic.

I write on behalf of those who fear their abusers. I write on behalf of them in order to gain some sort of peace in their own homes. PLEASE pass this law for all of us who are concerned for our family members, friends and own lives.

Mahalo nui Loa,

Shereen

Just imagine Your own children. Your own son. Your own daughter. Your own sister. Your own brother. Your own mother. Your own husband (Because women are also perpetrators.) Your own grandmother. Your own grandfather. Your own aunties. Your own uncles. The list goes on. YOUR 'OHANA.

You find out that your family member has been living in a domestically violent household by a person or persons who have no conscience except to bully their family members for 19 years of marriage, and the children's lifetime. Beaten, raped, on a daily basis. Mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and sexually abused on a regular basis. This is their life. Now let's take a walk back in time. Back that 17 years ago. The wife scared for her daughters life at the age of 2, forced and calls Child Protective

Services in 1997. They bring a sheriff. A police officer. The CPS counselor comes into the apartment to access the situation and are about to take their daughter into custody. Then the husband pleads to keep that from happening and promises it will never happen again. "I'm going to try harder to be a better father." All the while the wife is pleading to keep her daughter and don't take her away from her--but subconsciously, she is hoping that they take her daughter away for her daughters safety, for her life. Then come to reality knowing that when they leave. That she is in for terrible beating. That is her life. This husband gets his way because they believe him. And say the only way we can keep our family in tact, is to have weekly in home counseling sessions to comply. He agrees. They leave. And the family is in tact. But that day, the wife learns very quickly that if she ever calls the cops again and ask for help...

I came close to dying that day.

Smothered. Choked. Beaten on inside of my body where the clothes covers the bruises. Until close to death. Just enough so CPS counselor visitor can't see evidence of abuse. Fast forward to now. 2019. My children and I as well, have severe PTSD.

Just imagine if that was you hearing about a member of your family has been getting beaten up. You are in a position to help them. Do you?

It's an epidemic that is ongoing and the people in power who can make laws to stop the deaths of thousands or more. Have any of you been watching the news? I was hoping all of you who are in the seat to protect people who are victimized by their assaulters. Perpetrators. Monsters. Inhumane. Care NOT for their victims. Be it sexual assault in any form, physical assault in any form, domestic violent abuse. The only way any of you will truly understand, is to place yourself in that horrible, terrifying, hopeless situation. One day, until you have been in the situation that many of us in this world have been Everyday. Every week. Every month. Every year.

Open your eyes and see that this is a problem in the State of Hawai'i. You as a politician is put in a seat to assist, protect and defend those who have little protection from the beasts that walk the earth who have absolutely no concept of forgiveness. With that said look back at the numerous fatalities that have come about on just the news over the past 7 years that my ex has been in prison, and prior to the 7 years. It is an ongoing battle.

OPEN YOUR EYES and look at the system that **DOES NOT WORK** at this moment and make a change and fix it for the betterment of the victim and the perpetrator.

Believe and trust me, my children, and especially my eldest daughter who was the victim of years of sexual assault, fear for our lives as we await the inevitability of being not just killed, but slaughtered. He will come with revenge. He will come with vengeance. And no piece of paper will keep him away from us. He vowed to come after me, my children and my family if we ever put him in jail/prison. He beat it into our heads to the point of it becoming an everyday fear. Ultimately scarring every member of my family. We are all victims of a lifetime of every form of abuse. Because he wanted to control us in the most horrific ways possible.

He preyed upon my daughter.

Since my ex husband has been in jail. Prison. Since 2012 when he was incarcerated. That is 7 years ago.

Even after the counseling sessions were done. He continued throughout the counseling to abuse my daughter and I enough so that the counselor didn't see the evidence of abuse. After that my second daughter was born in 1998, he still continued to be a terroristic person in our lives all the way through to 2006 when I had my twin my son and daughter. I have learned that he will not stop the physical, mental, spiritual, social abuses. Because he is sick in his mind. That man did the unthinkable to all of us.

Since this bill is regarding a child and children for that matter that is getting sexually abused in the house, I want to make sure that you know that the child needs to be protected. Not the perpetrator who committed the crime.

In 1997, when she was 2 years old... in that moment the day that CPS came. He still ended up beating me up. After raping me. After horribly torturing me, after turning him in, he did what he always does. He started to apologize for all that he has done, and said he would never do it again. That's what he always said "I will never do it again". That was the common thing that he said. But he ALWAYS DID IT AGAIN !!! He also told me the story of how while he was bathing my daughter in the bathtub. Explained to me that just for fun, (these are the words coming out of his mouth) just for fun he wanted to see if she could breathe. Like how most babies can hold their breath under water. That he wanted to see if he could bring her back to life. Just keep in mind my daughter is 2 years old. So he tells me the story of how he places my daughter under the water and she's gasping for air drowning turning purple and blue in all different shades of colors. And when he brings her out of the water realizing that she's almost dead, resuscitate her and feels so proud of himself for bringing her back to life. This is just one story he told me that he did while I was at work. That he was proud of himself for bringing her back to life. That is sick, as far as I'm concerned. Period.

I am utterly amazed and baffled at the fact that you as politicians have the ability to save people's lives. But give the person who committed the crime so much leeway? The perpetrator should have no more rights at that point ! Why do you think so many people commit crimes? It's because they know that they can get away with it and lead normal lives. And reassault their victims. This is an unbelievable and backwards way of thinking. I believe in 2nd chances. I believe in civil rights. But the fact of the matter is that the person committed a crime.

I am just one story. Amongst many thousands, perhaps most of the population of children and women are getting abused on a daily basis here in Hawai'i and are left unnoticed or never reported for fear of retaliation. You guys need to start taking care of the citizens in which you promised as a politician that you would help.

To go this long with domestic abuse. 19 years for me and my family all of my children's lives. Then to find out when I fast forward to 2013 in her beginning of Senior year in high school that my oldest daughter who I just talked about that was the 2 years old baby. Winds up getting sexually molested by her blood father.??? This is not normal. It isn't safe.

Let me give you a little bit more information just so you know for the entire duration of the relationship that I had with this man. He did not believe in a higher power for example in God of the Christian belief. But around two years before he was incarcerated decided that he wanted to start going to church. Let's go to church, because he wanted to see if he could change his ways. We go to church every Sunday still continuing to get beaten up on a daily basis. Still me as the woman or wife getting raped. Still getting terrorized by this man while going to church. My children still getting beaten up and thrashed with horrible long hours of painstaking exercise to make them strong. My poor babies getting mental, verbal, emotional, spiritual, physical, and sexual abuse beyond belief. Then, showing a different face in church than from home. So it's time to get baptized in the Christian church. Him, my older daughters and my twins. The Sunday that he is baptized on, along with the rest of my family the following day, I find out later from my oldest daughter when I return back to work which is a Monday just a day later. This man begins to start molesting my daughter. (She's 15 when it started because I was home from work..the molesting stopped for a little bit. When I was out of the house working he continued to do it when I came back home he stopped.) But when I return back to work he did not even wait. He began to prey upon my daughter less than 24 hours after getting baptized. Because Jesus is supposed to forgive any sin. This is in 2012. August my daughter finally comes to me and tells me that these things are happening and have been happening and that she was scared to tell me and in fear of him retaliating but she just can't handle it anymore because he was beginning to get worse and worse. This became the Last Straw and what broke the camel's back for me. I finally turned this monster into prison knowing fully that when he comes out because he told us on a daily basis "if I ever get put into jail I will come out after you and I will kill you and put you in the news battered up beyond belief so they can't recognize you." As he waited for us to come home that night he was taken away by the police to jail. My

second oldest daughter tells me that he tells her to repeatedly bring him his rifle a handful of times. He assembles the rifle in front of my 6 year old son and 14 year old daughter, turns the gun on himself points it to his head, or mouth and says "just practicing" disassembles it and continues to repeat this process over and over again in front of them. My son is scared mentally for life for seeing that.

This man managed to get his lawyer to drop his sentence at his parole hearing which wasn't even supposed to happen because we asked for the maximum 10 years. Wanting 20 but they brought it down to 10. Then at the parole hearing because he did good behavior an OCCC, now he's only going to be doing 8 years at halawa. They transferred him to Arizona Saguaro Correctional Facility for 3 years. He does good behavior there and is returned to Hawaii Island to the facility with no walls no fences and a minimum-security correctional facility named Kulani? All because of good behavior that he is doing.

He's making them see and hear what they want to see and hear.

He manipulated them to thinking he is better by turning to God. He is absolutely not reformed. I do not believe that he is or has been or ever will be rehabilitated.

The restraining order or order of protection is just a piece of paper. IT'S JUST A PIECE OF PAPER ! IT'S JUST A PIECE OF PAPER! Even if I install cameras around my house. And this camera is recording him, he does not care! The camera will video him coming into my house, coming near my house creating a hostage situation killing me, my kids anyone in the house and then killing himself. This was his plan. This will be his plan when he gets out.

Just so you know this man was in the Marines and because he did not want to be deployed anymore in Okinawa. He attempts to commit suicide just so he can get out of the military to come be with me. By taking sleeping pills and a cocktail of various pills. This man gets out with an honorable discharge for personality disorder. This is before I got married back in 1994. So nothing scares this man. He will come.

Just like the other men or women that are going to come after their victims for vengeance, Revenge whatever you want to call it. Open your eyes and see that this is something that needs to be fixed. Look at the news. Currently. It's getting worse. Research the news and see how many people have been put in a situation that ended up on the news. That is what my ex-husband told me he would do that he would make us a statistic--those are words coming out of his mouth. To scare The Living Daylights out of us, to instill fear in us so that we wouldn't turn him in. I found out that I'm the 1%. 1% of women that got so fed up with being abused and were willing to turn him in. The ninety-nine percent of the women in this world fear for their lives and accept the man back in the house over and over and over again. Stop this cycle! You have the ability to stop this cycle. My children are human beings. We are all in this together so

take care of the whole of the community.

Think about it. Take care of the community that you vowed to take care of. I cannot stress to you how much fear that I have for the lives and safety of my children who are 13 years old. He has not seen them for 7 years going on 8 years. He is going to want to come back and see them and he's coming back with a vengeance. I am not just some woman trying to keep a man who is crazy mentally away just for kicks and giggles. This is an epidemic. Please please please take care of the people in this community. We are but just one family amongst thousands of families going through this on a daily basis I am repeating myself for you to understand that this needs to stop. It is imperative! We live in a world where we can stop this kind of cycles from happening.

I advocate for children and women to be free from there assaulters. We need to bind together as a people to stop this abnormal behaviors. Hear me. Listen to what I'm saying. Don't just glaze over what I'm writing. Listen to what I'm saying. Don't just skim over these words. Hear me. And do something to help us. It's about time people like my children-daughters and son and I can live safely in this Paradise. Can you imagine being forced to watch your children that you gave birth to get beaten up for no reason. Thrashed to exercise for hours on end to the point of blisters on their hands and feet. Except to control what they are doing. To watch him think it's ok to train his daughters and son to beef with each other in boxing or jujitsu trading blows to hurt one another, On a daily basis. And not in a healthy training kind of way. My children and I were constantly in fear of his Wrath. Expecting our children as well as myself not to flinch when he raised his hand to us--that the minute you flinch you're going to get hit in your face. You're going to get punched. You going get lickin's. Can you imagine that life for yourself if you put yourself in our shoes? I had to watch my children get beaten up and not flinch and not get in the way because if I did, I was in for a beating myself of which I took for many many years and had to stay silent amongst my friends and family. Had to hide the bruises and the broken bones from doctors and the school. By staying home from special occasions like birthdays and Christmas and holidays. Not allowed to talk about what he was doing.

Just even try to imagine a portion of what we went through. That is not even topping the cake what I'm writing here. I have more to tell you which I will do in my testimony when this Bill gets to hearing. Keep your community safe. That's the bottom line. These men or women for that matter, although have served their time, so-called did their time. And paid for it by being in prison they are still felons. They committed crimes on innocent victims. Stop the cycle. You have the ability to stop the cycle so DO IT. YOU WILL BE THE ONE THAT SAVED SO MANY LIVES. Did you know that so many families in the islands think that it's okay or think that it's normal to get beaten up?

It is not normal, it is abnormal. These men and these families needs to know that it's not okay. So STOP THE CYCLE!!!

Please, I am begging you. I am pleading with you. Please pass a law that at the very least keeps the victim in their home where they live, a place of peace that it should be, a place a safety from their offender, at the very least at 2000 feet. (Because the islands are so small. PLEASE CONSIDER to make it a law that these people are not allowed to return back to the island in which the crime happened. Please consider to give the victim an option to choose whether or not the offender can be in the small vicinity of an island / county. The island is so small and apt to bump into each other at the very least. It saves the victim. The victim deserves this safety. The perpetrator deserves to be rehabilitated without access to his or her victim.)

I do not think it's fair for any victim to have to move elsewhere, pickup their lives and relocate just because the offender, he/she/they, thinks that they served his/her time for the crime and can come back and reap havoc on the victims and their families lives again. Or worse.

Thank you. Mahalo nui loa!

Shereen

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Shereen