



House HUS Committee
Monday, Mar 15, 2010
10 am
Room 329

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 13, 2010

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Members of the House Human Services Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: HR 149/HCR 220 Requesting the House Committee on Human Services to Convene a Working Group to Further Study Recommendations Made by the SR 10 Working Group Committees- **SUPPORT**

Chair Mizuno and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT of HR 149/ HCR 220.**

NASW participated in the SR 10 Working Group during the last interim. We believe that all parties participated in productive discussions and good recommendations were developed. However, we found that the more we discussed, the more questions were raised. There are still many unresolved issues that would benefit from a continuation of the Working Group.

NASW is willing to continue to participate in the Working Group if convened during the interim and we respectfully urge your favorable support HR 149/HCR 220. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Tom Marzec [mailto:adamtm@lava.net]

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 3:01 AM

To: HUS testimony

Subject: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HR149/HCR220, hearing 15Mar10 at 10:00 am

March 15, 2010

To: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Via email to: HUS testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Tom Marzec

Subj: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HR149 / HCR220** re working group to continue addressing family court issues

Hearing: Monday, March 15, 2010; 10:00 a.m.; Room 329, State Capitol

A group to study family court legal interventions first came together in 2004, under the leadership of Senator Chun Oakland and Senator Fukunaga. This group has continued to meet, study issues, report, collaborate and propose legislation -- up to the present legislative session. Several of the groups proposals have been enacted into law, some of which include mandatory parenting plans, defined criteria for the best interests of the child and child custody evaluation initiatives.

The group's members include a broad cross-section of the community, from grassroots public citizens and academic institutions to government and non-profit agencies. Continuing these efforts is essential, as this group has successfully collaborated on family court-related legislation and fills a much-needed void in family court process improvements by bringing new ideas, fresh perspectives and solutions for problems to the table and to our elected or public officials.

Your continuing support of such initiatives, and this working grou