

**SB 2044, SD1**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 2044, S.D. 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Hearing: February 24, 2010, Wednesday, 10:10 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2044, S.D. 1, is to  
appropriate general funds for domestic violence shelters.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services  
(DHS) must respectfully oppose this bill. Given the State's  
current fiscal difficulties, including a \$1.23 billion biennium  
shortfall, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment of a new  
general fund appropriation that we cannot afford.

The Department remains committed to financially supporting  
domestic violence shelters with funding that is currently  
available. The Department already provides over \$3,000,000 in  
funding for domestic violence shelters through a combination of  
State and Federal funding sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

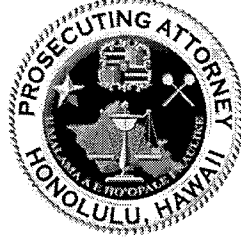
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

PETER B. CARLISLE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR  
THE HONORABLE SHAN TSUTSUI, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

February 24, 2010

**RE: SENATE BILL 2044, S.D. 1; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS**

**HEARING: February 24, 2010, 10:10 a.m., Conference Room 211**

Good Morning Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney provides the following testimony **in support of S.B. 2044, S.D. 1**, which proposes to make an appropriation to continue funding for emergency domestic violence shelters across the state.

Few measures that you consider this Legislative session are more certain to save lives than the appropriation in S.B. 2044, S.D. 1. Domestic violence shelters have served as the backbone of the safety net for domestic violence victims for the last thirty years. Without these shelters and their associated programs for battered women, men, and children, our communities statewide would be littered with a panoply of additional social and criminal justice ills. Ironically, it has been noted that not only have the deaths of battered women declined drastically as we have implemented emergency violence shelters on every island, but nationally far fewer men have died as the result of a domestic violence encounter. Few alternatives (aside from lengthy and continued incarceration of batterers) have the impact that domestic violence shelters have had. They provide a critical aid to the work of law enforcement when victims, or potential victims, can be quickly whisked away to a shelter and out of the reach of their violent partner. The safe and nurturing environment of our domestic violence shelters also provides an opportunity (often for the first time) for a shell shocked victim to learn that they do not have to live a life dominated by their partner's violence to them and their children. The support provided by shelters goes far

beyond providing physical safety as they help link victims with a multitude of other legal, criminal justice, and social services resources. But it is more than individual lives that are stake with this proposed appropriation, it is the health and well being of communities across the state that benefit from the availability of adequately funded domestic violence shelters.

For the above reasons we strongly urge your support for S.B. 2044, S.D. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.