

SB2083



Committee: Committee on Education and Housing and the Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 1, 2010, 2:15 p.m.
Place: Room 225
Re: *Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Conditional Support of S.B. 2083, Relating to Education*

Dear Chairs Sakamoto and Chun Oakland and Members of the Committees on Education and Housing and Human Services:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in conditional support of S.B. 2083, which seeks to designate after-school and prevention programs that address bullying, sexual health issues, emotional literacy, domestic violence, civic responsibility and healthy relationships as objectives and policies in the Hawaii state plan.

An Amendment is Necessary to Ensure that Sexual Health Programs are Comprehensive, Medically Accurate and Age Appropriate

The ACLU of Hawaii is appreciative that your Committees are considering this comprehensive bill that addresses many topics of great importance to our organization. However, our support is conditioned on whether this bill is amended to ensure young people’s sexual health by requiring that sexual health programs are comprehensive, medically accurate and age appropriate. With this bill, Hawaii has the opportunity to meet the needs of many of its young people by crafting sexual health programs that include information about both abstinence and contraception and addresses the root issues that help teens make responsible decisions and keep them safe and healthy. In order to ensure young people’s sexual health, we recommend that an amendment to S.B. 2083 be made by your Committees to state that after-school programs and prevention programs in schools that address sexual and emotional health issues must be medically accurate and age appropriate and include education on abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease prevention to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency virus.

Programs to Address Bullying Will Help to Keep Our Public Schools Safe and Bias-Free

The ACLU of Hawaii is particularly concerned with ensuring that public schools are safe and bias-free for LGBT students, who face harassment, discrimination and frequent violence in our schools. Supporting programs that address bullying will help to make our public schools safe

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Hon. Sens. Sakamoto and Chun Oakland, Chairs, EDH and HMS Committees, respectively and
and Members Thereof

February 1, 2010

Page 2 of 2

and bias-free for LGBT students and help to defend their free speech. Our public schools should not be places of exclusion, but places where students feel safe and free from discrimination. Supporting after-school anti-bullying programs will go a long way toward protecting LGBT students and will help to promote a better learning environment.

Programs to Encourage Civic Responsibility are Essential to Maintaining a Strong Democracy

Because schools are charged with both protecting students today and providing them with the tools to protect and advocate for themselves in the future as free, responsible, civically-engaged adults, upholding and instilling respect for the law and their basic constitutional rights is critical on both accounts. Producing civically-responsible citizens will ensure continued freedom and democracy.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

January 29, 2010

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Testimony in Support of SB 2083 Relating to Education

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations supports SB 2083 Relating to Education.

High quality after-school programs are demonstrated to be effective in reducing the risk of a variety of undesirable behaviors among adolescents, including unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, juvenile crime, and substance abuse. They may increase school achievement, and provide service learning opportunities that teach young people the value of contributing back to their communities.

HYSN recommends an amendment to the bill in section 2 as follows:

(7) Emphasize after-school programs and prevention programs in schools to address sexual and emotional health issues that are medically accurate and age appropriate and include education on abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease prevention to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency virus.

This language is consistent with Act 27 (SB 777) Related to Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education passed by the legislature in 2009 and is also consistent with current Department of Education policy on sexual health programs. We also propose this language to improve Hawaii's opportunity to take advantage of new federal appropriations for sexual education. This winter, Congress passed an appropriations bill designating \$114 million dollars to be distributed to the states to fund evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. It is expected that this money will be disbursed to qualifying states in September 2010.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

January 31, 2010

**TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF
S. B. 2083, RELATING TO EDUCATION, WITH AMENDMENT**

**Hearing date and time: Monday, February 1, 2010, 2:15 p.m.
Committee on Education and Housing
Committee on Human Services**

Aloha Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Education and Housing; Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Committee on Human Services; and members of these respective committees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2083 with amendments, which designates after-school and prevention programs that address bullying, sexual health issues, emotional literacy, domestic violence, **civic responsibility**, and healthy relationships. We agree on the necessity for raising awareness and education among students of these issues.

In particular, we are sensitive to the need for educating and involving our youth on their civic responsibilities. As this is an election year, we are acutely aware of the need for the community to be involved in the election process, in particular, youth. A Star Bulletin Article dated July 21, 2009, "Hawaii dead last in voter turnout" advised that "...only 51.8 percent of registered voters in the island went to the polls in the 2008 presidential election. What was more surprising to veteran political scientist Neil Milner was the lack of votes cast by younger people. Among eligible voters in the 18-24 age group in Hawaii, 25 percent voted, compared with 67 percent of those 75 and older. Nationally 48.5 percent of those 18-24 voted."

Accordingly, we recommend that SB 2083 be amended to include in Section 3, the following provisions, "(11) Provide educational programs on civic responsibilities, e.g., understanding political system (to include the contributions and differences a legislator makes to its state); the importance of voter registration and participation in elections; and the role and kuleana (responsibility) of youth in contributing to the health and welfare of its community. This may help to influence youth to consider a career as a legislator, to become more involved now in community issues, and to feel a sense of commitment to the welfare of its community.

Further, during the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Conference held a couple years ago, youth who sat on the panel, all indicated that they did not plan to return to Hawaii after graduation from college on the mainland. A possible underlying cause is that youth feel little sense of commitment to its community, thus involvement at a young age may help to correct that situation.

As a note, we recognize that many schools have lessons in civics and some even conduct mock elections. All maika'i initiatives; this particular one, i.e., SB 2083 and the amendment we recommend, simply builds on those programs.

Attached for your information is AHCC Resolution 09-33, Supporting Voter Campaigns and Political Forums for the Candidates Seeking Political Office and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. In particular, we call attention to the 7th Be It Further Resolved Clause, that schools be encouraged to begin a drive to register all students age 16 and over and encourage students, as a community project, to assist civic clubs, the 'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition, and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement with registration campaigns.

ABOUT THE AHCC

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-eight Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee, and Texas. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

09-33

SUPPORTING VOTER CAMPAIGNS AND POLITICAL FORUMS FOR THE CANDIDATES SEEKING POLITICAL OFFICE AND OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole believed it important that the Native Hawaiian community be informed and active in civic and political issues; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, was founded in 1918 for this purpose; and today there are 58 civic clubs located throughout Hawaiʻi and in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs advocates for the improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, housing, social welfare, and nationhood; and

WHEREAS, these leadership positions impact upon decisions on issues of importance to the Native Hawaiian community; and

WHEREAS, political forums have helped voters to better understand the issues and the stance of each candidate, and therefore to make sound, informed decisions when they cast their vote; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that there are more than 153,000 Native Hawaiians eligible to vote and it is critical that their voice be heard; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians represent about 16 per cent of the voter population and can be an influential force at the voting polls; and

WHEREAS, efforts by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and their candidate forums, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs voter registration, the ʻĪlioʻulaokalani Coalition's "No Vote No Grumble" Campaign, and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement's "Native Votes Count" significantly improved upon Native Hawaiian participation in the last election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Convention at Mākena, Maui this 7th day of November, 2009, that it support

voter campaigns and political forums for the candidates seeking political office and Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association host and/or participate in political discussion forums of candidates regarding political, cultural, and social issues of importance to the Native Hawaiian community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of civic clubs encourage their families, friends, and co-workers to attend the political forums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ‘Ōlelo television and Nā ‘Ōiwi Olino cover these political forums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that civic clubs take the initiative to become certified voter registrars and assist the State of Hawai‘i or their respective states to register voters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that civic clubs commit to support the “No Vote No Grumble” Campaign of the ‘Īlio‘ulaokalani Coalition and the “Native Votes Count” campaign of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement by helping to carry signs in their various districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schools be encouraged to begin a drive to register all students age 16 and over and encourage students, as a community project, to assist civic clubs, the ‘Īlio‘ulaokalani Coalition, and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement with registration campaigns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kamehameha Schools, the Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homeland Assembly, and other Hawaiian organizations also be encouraged to commit to the voter educational and turnout campaign by providing resources in terms of funding and/or people to become certified voter registrars and help carry signs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Kamehameha Schools, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, community foundations, and other organizations be encouraged to fund these initiatives of educational, political forums and Native Hawaiian voter turnout; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Kamehameha Schools; the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement; the ‘Īlio‘ulaokalani Coalition; the Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homeland Assembly; all Royal Societies; and the Hawaiian Independence Action Alliance.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 7th day of November, 2009, at the 50th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Mākena, Maui, Hawai‘i.

/s/ Leimomi Khan
PRESIDENT



THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

Advisory Board
President
Mimi Beams

Vice President
Peter Van Zile

Marilyn Carlsmith

Senator
Suzanne Chun Oakland

Monica Cobb-Adams

Donne Dawson

Dennis Dunn

Dana Espinoza

Senator
Carol Fukunaga

Frank Haas

Roland Lagareta

Phyllis Muraoka

Martha Smith

Tina Watson

R. Carolyn Wilcox

DATE: January 29, 2010

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Education and Housing Committee on Human Services

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: Support for SB2083
Relating to Education

Good afternoon Senators Sakamoto and Kidani and members of the Committee on Education and Housing and Senators Chun Oakland and Les Ihara and members of the Committee on Human Services. My name is Adriana Ramelli and I am the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), a program of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health.

The SATC strongly supports SB2083 to expand the health and education objectives of the Hawai'i state plan (chapter 226, HRS) to include policies that emphasize the necessity of addressing key emotional and social issues impacting our young people, such as bullying, domestic violence, sexual health, healthy relationships, and emotional literacy. Providing education to address these issues in our classrooms and after-school programs is a sound investment in our children's mental health and a necessary foundation for improved learning and achievement.

In the last three years, the SATC has trained over 250 teachers statewide to teach its sexual abuse prevention curricula to their students in K-12th grade. The curricula are designed to protect children from the serious consequences of sexual victimization and to promote safe, respectful relationships. We are hopeful that this bill will lead to increased opportunities to teach Hawai'i's children about sexual violence prevention. Researchers estimate that about 1 in 6 children experience some form of sexual abuse by age 18, and the rest remain at high risk for sexual victimization throughout young adulthood. Last year over 600 people were served by SATC and of those served almost half were minors (15% were 4 years or younger, 35% were 5 to 12 years old and 50% were 13 to 17 years old). While most youth may not experience sexual victimization, every child needs sexual violence prevention education which includes lessons on safe and unsafe sexual behavior, respecting others' personal boundaries and developing healthy relationships.

While the SATC supports SB 2083, we respectfully request the following amendment (underlined). Section 3, 226-21 (b) (10) be amended to read as follows:

"Emphasize prevention strategies against bullying and sexual and domestic violence to be taught in schools and after-school programs and prevention programs in schools promoting sexual health, emotional literacy, civic responsibility, and healthy relationships among family members, friends, and members of the community."

SB 2083 highlights the importance of developing emotionally and socially healthy children, a vital investment in their future. We urge you to support this bill.

January 29, 2010

Testimony in Support: SB 2083

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Senate Committee on Education, Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services and Members of the Committees

From: Katie Reardon, Vice President of Government & Public Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2083 and Proposing Amendment

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii supports SB 2083 Relating to Education. This bill amends Hawaii State Policy on after-school programs and prevention programs to reflect an emphasis on “sexual health, emotional literacy, civic responsibility, and healthy relationships.” We also propose to amend the bill to ensure that programs focus on accurate and comprehensive sexual health education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I. Hawaii’s Youth Need Access to Sexual Health Education

Hawaii’s youth are in desperate need of sexual health education. Our state has some of the highest rankings in the nation for teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease. Nationally, the most current data available shows that in 2006 the teen pregnancy rate increased for the first time in over a decade. According to the same study by the Guttmacher Institute, Hawaii ranked 17 among the nation in teen pregnancy rates.¹ Hawaii has the nation’s 6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection,² and approximately 67% of those infected in Hawaii are between the ages of 15-24. Most startling, of those teens reporting sexual activity, only 54% are using condoms. That’s the lowest rate of condom use among sexually active teens in the country.³

As a state and as a community we need to do more to ensure that teens are informed about their sexual health and have the skills necessary to make healthy and responsible choices about sex. Sexual education in schools is important. Unfortunately, class time alone is not adequate. With students spending less time at school due to furloughs and class time necessarily dedicated to tested subjects, sexual health education takes a back seat. After-school programs play a critical role in providing youth with necessary sexual health education.

II. Sexual Health Education Should Be Comprehensive, Accurate and Age Appropriate

In order to make SB 2083 consistent with existing Hawaii Statutes and Department of Education policy on sexual health education, PPH proposes to amend the language in Section 2, subsection (7) to read as follows:

(7) Emphasize after-school programs and prevention programs in schools to address sexual and emotional health issues that are medically accurate and age appropriate and include education on abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease prevention to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency virus.

¹ US Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity, January 2010, accessed from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPTrends.pdf> on January 29, 2010

² Id.

³ Eaton *et al.* Youth risk behavior surveillance, United States 2007. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, Surveillance Summaries* 2008; 57(SS-4):1-136.

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Kahului (Maui) Health Center

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(A Maui United Way Agency)

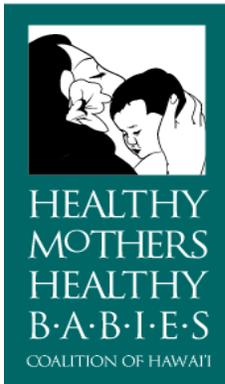
Teens benefit most from sex education that is comprehensive and medically accurate. Last year the state legislature passed SB 777 requiring that all state funded sexual health education be comprehensive and medically accurate. The proposed language above mirrors the language in that new law. It is not enough to simply emphasize sexual health education. *We must emphasize sexual health education that works.* According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, teens who receive comprehensive sex education are more likely to delay sexual activity, to use contraceptives when they do become sexually active, and to have fewer partners.⁴

The proposed language will also improve Hawaii's opportunity for new federal money. This winter, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill which designates \$114 million dollars to be distributed to the states to fund evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention and sexual education programs. It is expected that this money will be disbursed to qualifying states in September 2010. This is a great opportunity to improve sexual health programs in Hawaii schools, especially given Hawaii's very high teen pregnancy and STD rates.

III. Conclusion

Hawaii's youth need our help when it comes to protecting their sexual health. Access to accurate and comprehensive sex education is essential to ensuring that our teens grow up to be healthy and responsible adults. We ask that you adopt our proposed amendment so that youth in Hawaii get the effective sexual health education that they need and deserve. Please pass SB 2083 with the suggested amendment. Mahalo.

⁴ Kirby, D.. (2001) "Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy". Washington, D.C. : National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 95.



January 29, 2010

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee On Education and Housing

Senator Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director
RE: SB2083 Relating to Education
Hearing: Monday, February 1, 2010 at 2:15pm

Honorable Chairperson Sakamoto, Vice Chairperson Kidani and Members of the Committee on
Education and Housing
Honorable Chairperson Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee on Human
Services

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in support of SB 2083 Relating to Education.** This bill will designate after school and prevention programs that address bullying, sexual health issues, emotional literacy, domestic violence, civic responsibility, and healthy relationships. We need after school programs that emphasize sexual and emotional issues using medically accurate and age appropriate materials. While Hawaii has one of the lowest rates of teens reporting sexual intercourse, of those having sex, only 54% are using condoms. Hawaii has the nation's 6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection, an STD that can go undetected and cause long term problems, including the ability to not have a healthy pregnancy outcome.

Emphasizing sexual health education and healthy relationships is important toward teaching youth how to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and to make healthy and responsible choices when it comes to sex and relationships.

We urge your support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

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e-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 10:16 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2083 on 2/1/2010 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDH/HMS 2/1/2010 2:15:00 PM SB2083

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua Kona, HI
Phone:
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/29/2010

Comments:

I urge the Committee members to completely and fully support Bill 2083. Amending the State policy on after school programs to emphasize and promote sexual health, civic responsibility, emotional literacy, and healthy relationships will do wonders for our State.
Mahalo!

SB 2083 Relating to Education
Monday, February 1, 2010
2:15 PM
Room 225

In favor of amending and passing SB 2083.

One unintended result of the school furlough policy will be the increased risk to our young people of contracting a sexually transmitted disease and/or having an unintended pregnancy because of fewer days in school. Hawaii already has one of the highest rates in the nation of sexually transmitted disease and unintended pregnancy among teens. Our after-school programs should play a critical role in providing youth with necessary sexual health education. This is why we support SB 2083, but it needs amending.

We have read many testimonial letters from young people who have gone through medically accurate, age appropriate sex education. They overwhelmingly appreciate the facts, and have a new sense of empowerment to make responsible decisions. They appreciate the trust implicit in the information given on disease prevention and contraception including abstinence.

We urge that SB2083 be amended to strengthen it and make it consistent with recently enacted legislation requiring that all information be medically accurate and age appropriate including education of abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease prevention to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease.

We urge the Senate amend and pass SB2083.

Phil & Dorothy Morris
Kuli'ou'ou
6113B Summer Street

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 6:02 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Subject: SB2083 to be heard Monday, 02/01/10 at 2:15pm in Room 225

Importance: High

TO: Senator Norm Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education & Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate
881 Akiu Place
Kailua, HI 96734

DATE: Monday; February 1, 2010

RE: Strong Support for SB2083, Relating To Education

I can't begin to tell you how excited I was when I saw this proposal! Bullying is not just a harmless, childhood phase that a child will grow out of or will just "get over"; bullying employs the EXACT SAME DYNAMICS as Domestic Violence because it involves the use of oppression: the use of power and control where one person gets what they want at the expense of another. Before there is adult Domestic Violence, there is Teen Dating Violence and before that there is Bullying.

The best point to intervene is as early as you can so the thought of after-school and prevention programs to address these issues and promote education about sexual health issues, emotional literacy, healthy relationships while encouraging civic responsibility spells the beginning of the end to Domestic Violence in Hawaii!

One way to help achieve success for this bill is HB2158 that asks Human Services to develop grant programs to prevent and respond to Domestic Violence using federal stimulus funds and other grant sources. I sincerely hope that both measures will pass and become a reality.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)