July 2, 2015

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,
Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 2, 2015, the following bill was signed into law:

HB448 HD1 SD1 CD1  RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
   ACT 203 (15)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Section 321-472, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[§] 321-472 Multidisciplinary and multiagency reviews. The department shall conduct multidisciplinary and multiagency reviews of domestic violence fatalities, near-deaths, and suicides to reduce the incidence of preventable [death-] intimate partner homicides. The director may form domestic violence fatality review teams, as necessary, by appointing individuals to review domestic violence fatalities. A domestic violence fatality review team shall not be subject to part I, chapter 92."

SECTION 2. Section 321-473, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[§] 321-473 Access to information. (a) Upon request of the director or a domestic violence fatality review team, all medical examiners, physicians acting under the direction of a coroner, providers of medical care, state agencies, and county
agencies shall disclose to the department and the domestic violence fatality review team all information and records regarding the circumstances of a victim's death so that the department may conduct a multidisciplinary and multiagency review of domestic violence fatalities pursuant to this part.

(b) Members of the domestic violence fatality review team shall develop procedures related to near-deaths resulting from intimate partner violence.

(c) The department may enter into memoranda of understanding with the relevant state agencies and branches of government and county agencies to obtain information relating to near-deaths resulting from intimate partner violence.

(d) To the extent that this section conflicts with other state confidentiality laws, the provisions of this section shall require disclosure, notwithstanding the existence of a specific confidentiality statute.

(e) An entity represented on a domestic violence fatality review team and any entity cooperating with an entity represented on a domestic violence fatality review team may share with other members of the team:

(1) Information in its possession concerning the victim;
(2) Information in its possession concerning any person who was in contact with the victim; and

(3) Any other information in its possession deemed by the entity to be pertinent to the domestic violence fatality review.

[(d)] (f) Any information shared by an entity with other members of a domestic violence fatality review team is subject to the same restrictions on disclosure of the information or the records as the originating entity.

(g) To the extent possible, the review conducted pursuant to section 321-472 shall commence no later than one year following the death, near-death, or suicide."

SECTION 3. Section 321-475, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[f]§321-475[+] Use of domestic violence fatality review information and records. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, all information and records acquired by the department during its review of domestic violence fatalities pursuant to this part are confidential and shall only be disclosed as necessary to carry out the purposes of this part.
(b) Domestic violence fatality review information and statistical compilations of data that do not contain any information not previously publicly disclosed that would permit the identification of any person, shall be public records.

(c) An individual participating in the domestic violence fatality review of a victim's death shall not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding information presented in or an opinion formed as a result of a domestic violence fatality review meeting. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an individual from testifying to information obtained independently of the domestic violence fatality review of a victim's death, or which is public information, or where law or court order requires disclosure.

(d) Domestic violence fatality review information held by the department as a result of domestic violence fatality reviews conducted under this part shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding, except that domestic violence fatality review information otherwise available from other sources shall not be immune from subpoena, discovery, or introduction into
evidence through those sources solely because it was provided as required by this part.

(e) Information collected and recommendations derived from the review process shall be compiled for use in system reform efforts relating to the reduction of preventable deaths, near-deaths, and suicides resulting from domestic violence."

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

APPROVED this 2 day of 2015

[Signature]

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII