



TO: Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura,
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A

RE: HB 290 Comments

Aloha. And thank you for your consideration of this testimony. It is our responsibility to urge you to examine the community needs related to addressing domestic violence, one of our complex and costly community problems with broad impact.

The challenges that face the Judiciary, and the Family Court, in particular, resulting from domestic violence have not abated. The Domestic Violence Action Center is designed to innovate, respond, advocate and address this grave problem –through direct services to the island families in danger right now and outreach, education and technical assistance to keep our community mindful and responsive to the danger and the costs we bear for the presence of domestic violence in island families.

We are supported by contracts executed with the Judiciary (as well as the Hawaii Department of Human Services, federal agencies, city and county funds, private grants, fees and donors) which provides incredible relief to the parties, (and in fact, the Courts) because the system is unfamiliar and one's rights can be trampled on by abusers. There is also the risk to life that is implied or actual in the lives of families we see.

We submit this testimony to urge the Committee and the Body to make certain that funds are stable to make program services available to provide the crucial support necessary for families living in chaos and terror. The Domestic Violence Action Center is still working to regain its balance and budget stability since the enormous budget cutbacks we suffered in 2009.

In a given day we see more than 30 people, in our offices, at community appointments, in civil courts (Kapolei or Punchbowl) and criminal court (downtown). We answer telephone inquiries on the Helpline staffed to provide safety planning, referrals, crisis support, and information about options to as many as 20 callers daily. They need us.

We need the support of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you.



TESTIMONY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY HEARING: THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2015 AT 2:00 P.M.

TO: Honorable Chairman Karl Rhoads, Vice Chairwoman Joy San Buenaventura and Members
of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Victoria L. Kalman, Attorney, Retired

RE: H.B. 290 – RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY SPECIFICALLY THE KONA JUDICIARY
COMPLEX FUNDING

It is with a sense of urgency that I join fully in the thoughtful and comprehensive testimony offered by former West Hawaii Bar Association president Robert Kim in support of HB 290 as it relates to the funding of the Kona Judiciary Complex.

As a former member of the board of directors of the West Hawaii Bar Association, as an attorney in private practice in West Hawaii since 2003, past president of the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise, and resident of West Hawaii, I cannot overstate the importance of and urgent need for the planned West Hawaii Judiciary Complex. For all the reasons enumerated in Mr. Kim's testimony – safety and security of jurists, jurors, members of the community, detainees; accessibility for the disabled; fitness and usefulness for purpose intended; consolidation of services for the benefit of staff and the public; adequate and safe parking; and control of the costs related to the current leased spaces (we are paying a huge amount annually for what amounts to very inferior structures and locations) – this project continues to receive strong support from throughout our community.

The House Committee on the Judiciary is well aware of the intensity of the need, the value of the carefully designed plan for the new complex, and of the depth of support for this essential community service project. It is with a hopeful heart that I urge you to move forward with this funding bill so that this long awaited project may take the next step to fruition without a loss of previously approved funding and without delay.

Respectfully,

Victoria L. Kalman

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