



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 448, H.D. 1
RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 18, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports H.B. 448, H.D. 1 which adds
3 near-deaths and suicides to the types of multidisciplinary reviews conducted through the
4 Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) process. H.B. 448, H.D. 1 also mandates the
5 Department to conduct DVFRs by deleting “may” conduct to “shall” conduct these reviews. The
6 purpose of the DVFR is to prevent the incidence of domestic violence fatalities in Hawaii.

7 Adding near-deaths and suicides will provide the Department a larger number of domestic
8 violence incidences to review. It will also increase stakeholders’ ability to learn more about
9 events leading up to a domestic violence fatality and thereby providing additional supports and
10 recommendations for systems change and improvements.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 414**

Testimony in Support for [HB448 HD1, Relating to Domestic Violence](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** for HB448 HD1, which requires the Department of Health to conduct reviews of domestic violence fatalities, near-deaths and suicides, and requires reviews to commence within one year. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including survivors of domestic violence.

In Hawaii, it is estimated that about 132,000 adults (15%) experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. However, only a few of those adults reported such experience to authorities, and even fewer resulted in fatalities. The fatality review process has helped our community to better understand the circumstances regarding domestic violence. By expanding fatality reviews to include near-deaths, as well as suicides, this bill will further increase our understanding of domestic violence, and will provide more robust feedback to impact both system and institutional changes.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly supports HB448, and urges you to pass this bill out of committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB448 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 12:08:05 AM

HB448

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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