

**LATE**

March 13, 2017

To: Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: March 14, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Conference Room 229

R.E: Testimony in support of HB680 HD2, relating to the declaration of Cosmetologists being knowledgeable of the warning signs of abuse.

Thank you for hearing HB680 HD2, which permits those with cosmetology licenses to attend a one-time educational program, teaching those with licenses to spot the warning signs of intimate partner violence among their clients. My name is Alexandria Swanson and I am an undergraduate student representing the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Myron B. Thompson Bachelors of Social Work Program. I am in support of this measure because clients typically confide in their barber, hairdresser, esthetician, or nail technicians while they receive their grooming treatments. Being that the professional and the client tend to have strong relationships, it is important for the professional to learn these signs, as having knowledge of this violence can help save the life of someone within the relationship.

The relationship between a client and a professional is created over time and is a relationship in which it is based off of trust. The clients seek out these professionals in a way that they trust them to help them with their grooming beautification. Over time the professional and the client have the potential to develop a confidential and closely bonded relationship. Once this relationship has developed it is likely the client will possibly share information that is private, for example, their violent relationship with their significant other. In turn once this information is shared, if the professional has knowledge about the warning signs then they can help guide the client to resources that help their relationship.

Not only can the professionals take note of the information they are being told, but they can also notice the physical signs of abuse if they are trained properly. Some of the warning signs can be bruises around the neck, arms, or legs, or even other forms of abuse such as cuts and wounds. Having the beautician well knowledgeable about these warning signs can be a great benefit for the client. The salon can be seen as a place of safety and protection, and if the professional knows the signs they can help the client seek help and therapy to recover from the battery.

All in all, I am in full support of this proposition passing because it will allow clients of cosmetologists the freedom and opportunity to seek professional help in regards to intimate partner violence, as having another set of ears to hear their story or to notice the signs can help save a life.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

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