



February 02, 2017

To: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Marci Lopes, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 519 Relating to Domestic Violence

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB SB519**. The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) is a statewide partnership of 25 domestic violence programs and shelter providers across our Hawaiian Islands. Our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice. We would like to thank you all for your ongoing efforts to work towards ensuring victims of domestic violence in Hawaii are safe.

SB 519 would allow victims of officer-involved domestic violence to report allegations without the requirement of a written or notarized statement.

Victims should be granted the ability to file a complaint against their perpetrator without the additional fear of repercussion's based on the employment of said perpetrator. The current requirement may impede the willingness of family members and friends to report alleged abuse. It is common for outside parties with concern for their loved ones to want to remain anonymous in issues regarding domestic violence. Having to be required to provide personal information in writing may lead to fear of retaliation.

Our community should have the confidence and reassurance of their personal safety when reporting acts of domestic violence. It is of great concern that the State keeps the physical and emotional well-being of those reporting instances of domestic violence involving an officer in mind. The additional emotional stress this may cause a victim can be viewed as re-victimization.

Respectfully

Marci Lopes  
Executive Director

*Together we can do amazing things*