

# HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

## Executive Summary

1997 - 2003

### Introduction

Hawaii Family Forum (HFF) is a non-profit, pro-family education and research organization committed to the preservation and strengthening of families in Hawaii. While a legally independent entity, HFF is associated with Dr. James Dobson's Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is part of a state network of Family Policy Councils (FPC) across the nation. There are over 39 FPC's across America.

HFF began its community-wide efforts in 1998 and currently has 2 full-time employees: J. Denice von Gnechten, J.D., is the Executive Director, and Eva Andrade is the Director of Communications and Administration. Kelly Rosati, J.D., was the founding Executive Director (from March, 1998 - June, 2003) and Leinaala Drummond was the Program Director (March, 1998 - December, 2001).

### Board of Directors

HFF is governed by a Board of Directors made up of local business and community leaders who are dedicated to promoting family issues in Hawaii. Board Members include (parenthesis indicate years of participation on the board):

#### Executive Board:

**President** Francis S. Oda, AIA, AICP, Chairman & CEO of Group 70 International; (1997 - present)

**Vice-President/Treasurer** Austin Imamura, Special Project Coordinator of City Bank; (1997 - present)

**Secretary** Nancy Pace, M.D., M. S. P.H.; (1997 - present)

#### Board of Directors:

Murray Bawden, Volunteer & Community Leader; (1997 - present)

Gill Berger, General Manager, Sears Roebuck & Company; (2002 - present)

Mary Lou Brogan, Volunteer & Community Leader; (1998 - present)

Mitchell D'Olier, President of Kaneohe Ranch Company, Limited; (1997 - present)

Tom Papandrew; Administrator, Manoa-Punahou Catholic Community; (2003 - present)

Bill Paty, Trustee of Mark A. Robinson Trusts; (1997 - present)

Sandra Young, Attorney & Community Leader (2003 - present)

## Pastors' Advisory Board

Representing 17 churches and over 12,000 people in the wider community, HFF is also governed by a Pastors Advisory Board (PAB) made up of leaders from various churches. These advisory members are drawn from the following congregations and continue to make monetary contributions to the work of HFF: (parenthesis indicate year of participation on the PAB)

- Calvary Chapel of Pearl Harbor [1998 – present]..... Pastor Derald Skinner
- Calvary Chapel of Honolulu [1998 – present] ..... Pastor William Stonebraker (Pastor Ed Arcalas)
- Calvary Chapel of Central Oahu [1998 - present] ..... Pastor Rick Irons
- First Assembly of God (Red Hill) [1998 – present] ..... Pastor Klayton Ko
- First Assembly of God (Waianae) [1998 – present]..... Pastor Jeff Yamashita
- First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu [2003]..... Pastor Dan Chun
- Grace Bible Church, West Oahu [1998 - present]..... Pastor Sid Sumida
- Hope Chapel (Manoa) [1998 – present] ..... Pastor Mark Hsi
- Hope Chapel (Mililani) [1998 – present] ..... Pastor Tim Greseth
- Hope Chapel (North Shore - Haiku) [1998 - present] ..... Pastor Brent Hallsten
- Kailua Community Church [1998 - present] ..... Pastor Perry Alexander
- Kaimuki Christian Church [1998 – present]..... Pastor Ron Arnold
- Manoa-Punahou Catholic Community [1998 - present] ..... Pastor Marc Alexander
- New Hope Christian Fellowship [1998 – present]..... Pastor Wayne Cordiero (Pastor Elwin Ahu / Pastor Larry Gillis)
- New Life Church [1998 - present] ..... Pastor Francis Oda
- North Shore Christian Fellowship [1998 - present] ..... Pastor Mike Stangel
- Nuuanu Baptist Church [1998 – present]..... Pastor Rick Lazor
- Oahu Christian Center [1998 – present] ..... Pastor Archie Campbell
- Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii ..... Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo

## Education and Resources Provided

Since its first full year of operation (1998), HFF has provided pro-family education, research, and resource materials to the general public and the local Christian community. HFF staff has participated in events and educational opportunities that have informed and equipped the people of Hawaii to become more involved in various issues concerning the family. HFF has also aided in the formulation of laws affecting families in Hawaii. Over the past five years, HFF has provided seminars, workshops and training sessions within local churches to enhance community involvement in the public policy process.

### Resource Status:

- 750 people in the community receive the HFF newsletter on a monthly basis
- 57 churches of various denominations receive HFF bulletin inserts
- 17 churches give to HFF on a monthly basis
- 7 individuals give to HFF on a monthly and/or quarterly basis
- 2 organizations give to HFF on a monthly basis
- 100% HFF board member contribution
- Voter's Guide
  - Over 30,000 Hawaii residents received the 2000 HFF Voters Guide
  - Over 50,000 Hawaii residents received the 2002 HFF Voters Guide

## Community Impact

Within the limits prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), HFF has worked to defeat public policy proposals harmful to the families of our state while advocating for proposals to strengthen Hawaii's families. This was accomplished in two ways: first, through direct contact by HFF officials and second, through the coordinating, educating and equipping of large numbers of grassroots organizations and individuals who have similarly sought to frame public policy from a pro-family perspective.

### Direct Contact:

- Since 1998, over 300 individuals (10 churches) have participated in community training seminars (Salt & Light), sponsored by HFF.
- There are currently 31 church liaisons.
- Over 400 teenagers attended a May, 1999, youth rally on abstinence. HFF played a key role in organizing the event.
- Over 60 people attended an anti-physician-assisted suicide training event held in October, 2002, at Kaimuki Christian Church.
- HFF has been featured and/or quoted in local newsprint 45+ times.

### Legislation

Since 1998, HFF has testified on over 50 bills relating to the following issues:

- opposition to taxation of churches (1998),
- support for the protection of traditional marriage (1998),
- opposition to physician-assisted suicide (1998 – present),
- opposition to legalized gambling (1998 – present),
- support for the strengthening of domestic violence statutes and help for victims (1998 - present),
- support for the protection of religious freedom (1998 - 1999),
- support for the partial-birth abortion ban (1998, 2000),
- opposition to church zoning restrictions (1999),
- opposition to mandated coverage of contraceptives in employer-sponsored health insurance (1999),
- support for the creation of civil liability for those who coerce children into prostitution (1999 - 2000),
- support for the protection of children from on-line pornography (2000 - 2001),
- support for the raising the age of consent in Hawaii from 14 to 16 (2000 – 2003),
- support for parental notification for a minor to have an abortion (2001 - present),
- support for the protection of abandoned newborns (2002 - present),
- support for laws strengthening the role of adoptive parents (2002 - present),
- support for pain management and palliative care options (2002 - present).

## Key Victories

- [1998]
  - HFF was the first group publicly addressing the traditional marriage issue through a major TV, radio and print campaign to educate the voters about the implications of yes, no and blank votes. As a result, traditional marriage was protected.
  - HFF and the Hawaii Medical Association organized Hawaii's Partnership for Appropriate and Compassionate Care (HPACC), a coalition of community medical groups and disability rights organizations who oppose physician-assisted suicide.
- [1999] Local church construction and expansion would had been severely hampered by a proposal stopped in the City Council in 1999. HFF marshaled the troops for testimony. The Council reversed its course and our churches are now protected.
- [2000] HFF supported legislation to force the Hawaii public library system to develop written policies and procedures to protect underage children from on-line pornography. Today, children in Hawaii are not able to access on-line pornography in public libraries.
- [2001]
  - HFF diligently promoted the welfare of minors by working to raise the age of consent in Hawaii from 14 to 16. The bill was passed by the legislature but was vetoed by then-Governor Cayetano. HFF waged a successful grassroots campaign and the legislature made history by overriding the governor's veto.
  - In addition to the age of consent, working with Sisters Offering Support, HFF supported legislation that would make it a crime to recruit minors into the commercial sex industry (sex clubs and nude massage parlors). Passage of this law effects protection of minors from commercial sexual exploitation in Hawaii.
- [2002]
  - HFF continued to STOP physician-assisted suicide and gambling legislation from being legalized in Hawaii. A major advertising campaign was waged to educate the community on the dangers of physician-assisted suicide.
  - HFF continued to organize and coordinate HPACC.
- [2003] Hawaii's age of consent law (age 16) becomes permanent. Governor Lingle signs the new law on May 19, 2003 (Act 062) with HFF staff present at the signing.

## Goals and Objectives

- HFF will continue to provide resources and educational material to the wider community. In addition to the following goals and objectives, we will continue to train people to make a difference in the state by participating in the legislative process and providing the resources for them to do so.