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## Baby Steps Toward Justice for Unborn Babies

### Bill to Provide Better Legal Protection for Pregnant Woman Advances from First Committee

#### 2007 Big Island Tragedy

No one in Hawaii will soon forget the tragic case of the pregnant woman from Hawaii island who was brutally assaulted last summer. Her 14 year-old son was killed trying to protect her and her nearly full-term unborn child was also killed. She survived the attack but Hawaii law provides no justice for the taking of the life of her unborn child.

#### Hawaii's Current Law is Unjust

Under current Hawaii law, a perpetrator who intentionally harms an unborn child—at any stage of development—faces no accountability whatsoever for that conduct.

Tragically, Hawaii law provides more protection for animals that it does for these precious unborn children.

#### Efforts to Fix the Law

Previous efforts to correct this injustice to Hawaii's criminal code have been stopped cold by abortion-rights supporters and their allies in the Legislature. Previous proposals have focused on treating the unborn child as he or she should be treated—as a separate human person under the criminal code. Unfortunately, that preferred approach won't be passed in this Legislature.

#### The GOOD NEWS!

A more modest proposal, however, appears likely to pass – especially if we let our voices be heard!

**HB 2334 (click here to read bill)** establishes mandatory minimum prison time for those who kill or inflict serious bodily injury to a pregnant woman. This form of 'enhanced penalties' adds pregnant women to the list of crime victims for whom enhanced penalties are appropriate because the vulnerability of the victim. Others in the category include children younger than eight, the elderly, and blind or seriously disabled persons.

Even this modest step forward was opposed by some "women's groups".

We are pleased to report, however, that HB 2334 passed from the House Committee on Human Services & Housing and the House Committee on Health yesterday and is headed to the House Judiciary Committee.

#### Take Action

Please call and e-mail members of the House Judiciary and urge them to support HB 2334 to better protect Hawaii's pregnant women and their babies from criminal perpetrators. (You can highlight the entire column with the email addresses to send one e-mail to the entire committee by copying and pasting the addresses into your email account.)

<a href="#">Rep. Tommy Waters</a>	586-9450	<a href="mailto:repwaters@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repwaters@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Blake Oshiro</a>	586-6340	<a href="mailto:repboshiro@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repboshiro@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Kirk Caldwell</a>	586-8475	<a href="mailto:repcaledwell@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repcaledwell@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Cindy Evans</a>	586-8510	<a href="mailto:repevans@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repevans@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Josh Green</a>	586-9605	<a href="mailto:repgreen@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repgreen@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Ken Ito</a>	586-8470	<a href="mailto:repito@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repito@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Sylvia Luke</a>	586-8530	<a href="mailto:repluke@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repluke@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Angus McKelvey</a>	586-6160	<a href="mailto:repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Hermina Morita</a>	586-8435	<a href="mailto:repmorita@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repmorita@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Alex Sonson</a>	586-6520	<a href="mailto:repsonson@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repsonson@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Joe Souki</a>	586-9444	<a href="mailto:repsouki@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repsouki@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Clifton Tsuji</a>	586-8480	<a href="mailto:reptsuji@Capitol.hawaii.gov">reptsuji@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Ryan Yamane</a>	586-6150	<a href="mailto:repyamane@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repyamane@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Kyle Yamashita</a>	586-6330	<a href="mailto:repyamashita@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repyamashita@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Barbara Marumoto</a>	586-6310	<a href="mailto:repmarumoto@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repmarumoto@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Kimberly Pine</a>	586-9730	<a href="mailto:reppine@Capitol.hawaii.gov">reppine@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rep. Cynthia Thielen</a>	586-6480	<a href="mailto:repthielen@Capitol.hawaii.gov">repthielen@Capitol.hawaii.gov</a>

If you only have time for one call, please contact House Judiciary Chair Tommy Waters at (808) 586-9450, or e-mail him at [repwaters@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repwaters@Capitol.hawaii.gov) and thank him for introducing HB 2334 and urge him to pass it out of committee.

**We are often quick to speak out against the things we oppose, please take the time to speak for that which we can SUPPORT.**

Please send us a quick e-mail letting us know you took action. Check out our 'Legislative Central' on the [HFF website](#) for more information on the 2008 Legislature. Mahalo nui loa.

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For more information about Hawaii Family Forum, please [e-mail us](#) or call our office at (808) 203-6704.