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9:32 AM

Editor: Kelly M. Rosati, JD

House Finance Committee Convening THIS WEEK on HB 466 HD 1 Which Could FORCE a Religiously-Affiliated Hospital to Dispense Early Abortion Pills

The House Finance Committee is convening THIS WEEK (Wednesday, February 27th), to decide whether or not the Hawaii Medical Centers (HMC) should be forced to violate their operating agreement with the Catholic St. Francis Healthcare Systems by forcing HMC to provide "emergency contraceptives" to patients who present as sex assault victims.

The problem: emergency contraceptives can cause early abortions in pregnant women and, as such, are strictly prohibited under Catholic ethical and religious directives.

The House Judiciary Committee already passed the measure — **without the exemption.** ([Click here to read HB 466 HD 1](#))

TAKE ACTION

1. **Submit testimony in opposition (unless an exemption is included) to HB 466 HD 1** via email to: FINTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov no later than Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. If you email your testimony, please include the measure number (HB 466 HD1), the date of the hearing (February 27, 2008), and the agenda number of the hearing (Agenda #5).
2. **Show up at the hearing** on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in conference room 308 to show your opposition. Encourage your family and friends to do the same.
3. Please KINDLY and CALMLY **call and e-mail the members of the Finance Committee (list below) and urge them to oppose HB 466 HD1 UNLESS it contains a religious exemption.** (To send one email to all of the finance committee members, highlight (copy) the entire column of email addresses and paste into your "to" line of your email.)

Rep. Marcus Oshiro	586-6200	repmoshiro@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Marilyn Lee	586-9460	replee@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana	586-8465	repawana@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Della Au Belatti	586-9425	repawana@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Tom Brower	586-8520	repbrower@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Mele Carroll	586-6790	repcarroll@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	586-6530	rephanohano@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Sharon E. Har	586-8500	rephar@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu	586-8490	repkaramatsu@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Michael Y. Magaoay	586-6380	repmagaoay@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Joey Manahan	586-6010	repmanahan@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. John Mizuno	586-6050	repmizuno@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Rep. Bob Nakasone	586-6210	repnakasone@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Karl Rhoads	586-6180	reprhoads@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Roland D. Sagum	586-6280	reprsagum@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka	586-6270	reptokioka@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Colleen Rose Meyer	586-8540	repmeyer@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine	586-9730	reppine@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Rep. Gene Ward	586-6420	repward@Capitol.hawaii.gov

If you only have time to make one contact, please call Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro at (808) 586-6200.

4. When you have made your contact(s), [please let us know that you have done by clicking here.](#)

Talking points:

- HB 466 HD 1 violates the religious freedom rights of an important member of the community that has been providing health care to Hawaii's most vulnerable people since 1927 – St. Francis Healthcare.
- If the government can mandate that a religious hospital dispense abortion pills, it could also mandate that same religious hospital perform surgical abortion. This is a bad precedent.

Check out our '[Legislative Central](#)' on the [HFF website](#) for more information on the 2008 Legislature.

HFF alert subscribers, to remove your name from our list, [click here](#). **If you have been forwarded this message by some other organization (e.g. Transformation Hawaii network), please notify them directly if you do not want to receive these alerts.**

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