

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail to: JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: House JUD hearing
Hearing: February 12, 2008 @ 2:05 p.m. in room 325

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Date: February 11, 2008

To: House Committee Judiciary
The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
The Honorable Blake Oshiro, Vice Chair

From: Kelly M. Rosati, JD
Executive Director, Hawaii Family Forum
Lobbyist, Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

Re: Strong Support for HB 3040 Relating to Public Safety

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Kelly Rosati, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 210,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

Our organizations have been strong advocates over the years of providing information to parents so that they can better protect their children from sex offenders and predators on the internet. We are very grateful for the leadership of Hawaii's Attorney General and this Legislature in passage of both Megan's law and the electronic enticement law.

A cursory reading of local newspapers regularly demonstrates the ways in which these laws are being used as effective tools in combating sexual exploitation and in holding perpetrators accountable.

We support HB 3040 because it will modify Hawaii's sex offender registry laws to provide more current and helpful information regarding convicted, registered sex offenders who may pose a risk to the community. We also support the strengthening of the electronic enticement and other provisions to better combat predators on the virtually unrestrained venue of the internet.

HB 3040 addresses Hawaii's obligation to comply with the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, also known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). We defer to law enforcement and other criminal law experts on the most specific details of the measure but urge your strong support of moving in the direction of greater protection for Hawaii's children.

Mahalo for your kind consideration. We urge your strong support of HB 3040.