

# HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

## Emergency Legislative Alert

February 21, 2002

### PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE HEARING SCHEDULED FOR THIS SATURDAY!!!

**February 23, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol Auditorium (Basement)**

The House Judiciary Committee just announced that it will hold a hearing on HB 2487 [Relating to Death with Dignity] and HB 2491 [Proposing a Constitutional Amendment Relating to Death with Dignity] Passage of these two bills would legalize physician-assisted suicide. That would be a terrible mistake.

#### **Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide would:**

- 1- Forever transform the role of physician from one who preserves life to one who takes life. This will lead to a speedy deterioration of the physician-patient relationship, which will adversely affect the entire healthcare delivery system.
- 2- Leave society's most vulnerable poor, sick, elderly and disabled populations subject to abuse and coercion – no matter what the proposed safeguards. The slippery slope to involuntary Physician-Assisted Death would become a reality, just as it has in the Netherlands.
- 3- Inevitably lead to a duty to die, with elderly patients feeling the subtle (and, perhaps, not so subtle) obligation to end their lives prematurely so as not to be a burden to their families and society. Physician-assisted suicide would measurably diminish the sanctity and value of all human life.

#### **Action Items:**

- Pray that no form of Physician-Assisted Suicide will be legalized in Hawaii.
- Call the House Judiciary Members (numbers are listed below) and tell them to oppose legalized physician-assisted suicide in Hawaii.
- Fax your testimony to the House Sgt. at Arms at 586-6501 (24 hours in advance of the hearing) notating the time and date of the hearing and that 35 copies are needed. ***Please show up at the hearing even if you do not testify.***

Hamakawa, Eric (Chair)	Ka'u, South Kona, Puna	586-8480	Oshiro, Blake	Red Hill, Halawa Heights, Pearlridge, Aiea	586-6340
Ahu Isa, Lei	Alewa Heights, Kapalama, Liliha, Nuuanu, Puunui	586-9415	Auwae, Emily	Makaha, Waianae	586-8460
Case, Ed	Manoa	586-8475	Chang, Jerry	South Hilo, Puna	586-6120
Gomes, Joe	Waimanalo, Keolu Hills, Lanikai, Kailua, Enchanted Lake	586-9450	Kanoho, Ezra	Lihue, Kapaa	586-6270
Marumoto, Barbara	Waialae Iki, Waialae Nui, Kahala, Wilhelmina Rise	586-6310	Morita, Hermina	Haiku, Keanae, Nahiku, Hana, Hanalei, Kilauea, Anahola Kapaa	586-8435
Souki, Joe	Maalea, Waiehu, Wahee, Honolulu, Kapalua, Wailuku	586-9444	Thielen, Cynthia	Kailua, Kaneohe Bay Drive	586-6480
Yoshinaga, Terry	McCully, Moiliili, Pawaa	586-8450			

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