

February 14, 2006

# HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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Executive Director

### Unborn Victims of Violence Bill to Receive Public Hearing **TAKE ACTION ASAP - without public input, HB 2988 will likely fail.**

**BILL STATUS: HB 2988 being heard Thursday, February 16, 2006 in the House Judiciary Committee at 2:30 p.m. in room #325 of the State Capitol. If passed, it will go to the full House for a vote. ([Click here for hearing notice](#))**

[HB 2988 Relating to Offenses Against the Person \(Click to read text of bill\)](#) Many of you remember the recent Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the *Aiwohi* case in which the Court ruled that unborn babies in Hawaii are not persons under Hawaii law. HB 2988 has been introduced by Hawaii's law enforcement community to provide protection for viable unborn children who are injured by THIRD PARTIES - like in the Laci/Conner Petersen case in California.

It does NOT address the mother's conduct in any way nor does it address the abortion issue. While the bill is not perfect, it is a good measure to protect unborn children. It is very positive that the House Judiciary Committee is giving this bill a hearing. It may face an uphill battle. The Senate has not seemed interested in this issue to date.

It is important to contact members of the Judiciary Committee and urge their support of HB 2988 - Relating to Offenses Against the Person.

#### ACTION:

**1. Contact members of the House Committee on Judiciary and THANK THEM for hearing HB 2988 to protect the unborn babies who are injured by THIRD PARTIES (boyfriends, strangers etc.) and urge them to pass the bill.**

Remember, this is like the Laci/Conner/Scott Peterson case in California. Without this bill, a Scott Peterson type would face NO accountability for killing his unborn child here in Hawaii. **DO NOT TURN THIS INTO A DEBATE ON ABORTION. IF WE DO, THE BILL WILL FAIL.**

| HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE      | Phone    | Fax      | E-Mail   |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|--|
| Rep. Sylvia Luke (Chair)       | 586-8530 | 586-8534 | <a href="mailto:repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov">repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov</a>           |
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| Rep. John Riki Karamatsu       | 586-8490 | 586-8494 | <a href="mailto:repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov">repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov</a> |
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| Rep. Joe Souki                 | 586-9444 | 586-9499 | <a href="mailto:repsouki@capitol.hawaii.gov">repsouki@capitol.hawaii.gov</a>         |
| Rep. Barbara Marumoto          | 586-6310 | 586-6311 | <a href="mailto:repmarumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov">repmarumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov</a>   |
| Rep. Cynthia Theilen           | 586-6480 | 586-6481 | <a href="mailto:reptheilen@capitol.hawaii.gov">reptheilen@capitol.hawaii.gov</a>     |

**2. Please submit written testimony** by faxing it to the House Sgt.-at-Arms office at: 586-6501 (Oahu) or 1-800-535-3859 (neighbor islands). When faxing, please indicate to whom the testimony is being submitted (House Judiciary), the date and time of the hearing (February 16, 2006 @ 2:30 p.m.), and the required no. of copies (35 copies for this hearing). **Even if you do not submit testimony, please try to attend the hearing. ([Click here for hearing notice](#))**

**3. Please also contact your own House member and urge support for HB 2988** because if the bill passes the Judiciary committee, it will go to the floor for a vote. Ask your legislator to protect unborn children from Scott Peterson type perpetrators in Hawaii.

**4. Visit our website** if you need further information on any of these bills or would like to see sample testimony.

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