

March 6, 2006

# HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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### [ABORTION BILL UPDATE \(HB 1242 HD1\)](#)

*Click link above to read bill.*

This is a revised update to the one we sent on February 23, 2006.

First, thanks again to all of you who took the time to be involved on the late term abortion bill, HB 1242 HD1. There was a tremendous victory, which we described in that update. ([Click this link to see previous alerts](#))

In sum, before the hearing started, the Vice Chair announced that the offending language legalizing late term abortion of viable babies would be changed. He said it was as a result of a drafting error. Whatever the cause, we are grateful it was changed. The bill is now not nearly as egregious as it once was. It is important to understand that.

However, the bill is still not good and we need to update you on several items.

1) The Judiciary Committee did NOT scale back the language allowing all abortions to be done in a clinic or office rather than in the hospital. Case law has held that it is unconstitutional to require certain abortions be performed in hospitals. It does not REQUIRE states to allow ALL abortions AT ANY STAGE be done in a clinic or office. THIS LANGUAGE GOES TOO FAR AND ENDANGERS THE SAFETY OF THE MOTHER. Abortions have complications requiring emergency medical care not always available in an outpatient setting.

2) The bill removes the residency requirement because it is unconstitutional. While we don't like that it is unconstitutional, proponents are correct that it is unconstitutional. Removal of this provision will have no practical impact - now or in the future.

3) The bill has already passed 2nd reading with only 6 no votes; Representative(s) Cabanilla, Finnegan, Kahikina, Meyer, Moses, Stonebraker voting no (6) and Representative(s) Evans, Nishimoto, Shimabukuro excused (3). **It is scheduled for its 3rd and final vote in the House on Tuesday, March 7, 2006.** ([Click here for current status of bill](#))

#### **ACTION:**

1. **CALL YOUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE** and urge them to oppose HB 1242 HD1. Let them know that while we're grateful the Judiciary Committee corrected the worst part of the bill, it still goes further than simply clarifying current law by allowing all abortions at any stage to be done in a clinic or doctor's office, not a hospital. That jeopardizes the mother's safety. [If you do not know who your Representative is, click here.](#)
2. **LET US KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MADE YOUR PHONE CALLS.** It helps us to do our job at the capitol.

**REPLY: UNSUBSCRIBE TO BE REMOVED FROM E-MAIL LIST.**