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For the House Judiciary Committee
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March 16, 2004

To: House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
The Honorable Romy Mindo, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

From: Eva Andrade, Director of Communications

Re: **Support** for SB 2842 SD 1
Hearing on Thursday, March 18, 2004 @ 9:00 a.m., Room #309

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB 2842 SD1 Relating to Chapter 846E, HRS which would force convicted pornographers to register as sex offenders. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. As a result of our commitment to the families in Hawaii, we are pleased to support this bill.

Usage of the internet has significantly increased over the past twenty years. According to I-SAFE, (an internet organization founded in 1998 to educate parents and students about internet safety) one in five children using the Internet regularly is approached for sex. Add to that the number of teenagers who spend an average of 8.5 hours per week chatting and sending e-mail over the Internet who are also exposed to pornographic images.

Statistics show that pornographers frequently use the Internet as a portal to bring cyber-porn into the community. The anonymity of Internet usage has allowed pedophiles and stalkers to use electronic mail and "chat rooms" to lure their victims into dangerous liaisons. Hawaii's keiki then become potential victims of these sexual exploiters. Because children are the most vulnerable group in society and as such are in need of protection from those who would prey on them, we support this measure.

In the interest of Hawaii's families, we believe that there is a compelling state interest to protect the community from individuals who create or distribute child pornography. This horrendous crime directly attacks the health and welfare of Hawaii's keiki and ultimately the wider community. As such, we urge you to pass SB 2842 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.