



Fax to: House Sgt. Of Arms
For the House Judiciary Committee
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President
Francis S. Oda

April 2, 2004

*Vice-President &
Treasurer*
Austin Imamura

To: House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Eric Hamakawa, Chair
The Honorable Blake Oshiro, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

Secretary
Dr. Nancy Pace

From: Eva Andrade, Director of Communications

Re: **Support** for SB 2843 SD 1
Hearing on Monday, April 5, 2004 @6:30 p.m., Room #325

Directors
Murray Bawden
Gill Berger
Mary Lou Brogan
Mitch D'Olier, Esq.
Tom Papandrew
Bill Paty
Sandra Young, Esq.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2843 SD1 Proposing an amendment to Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. 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.

Staff

*Director of
Communications &
Administration*
Eva Andrade

Megan's Law, (an amendment to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1996), requires that communities be notified when a convicted sex offender moves into a neighborhood but lets states determine how to provide that notification. As you already know, the statute was named for a 7-year-old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered by a twice-convicted sex offender living on her street.

Unfortunately, the Hawaii Supreme Court struck down the state's version of Megan's Law in November 2001, calling the law unconstitutional because it violated the rights of sex offenders. The court ruled that disclosure of information on convicted sex offenders violated due process because it failed to let offenders appeal the law's requirements before their information is made public, and because such information could unfairly interfere with offenders' ability to secure a job or obtain housing. This ruling was unfortunate because it took away the rights of Hawaii's citizens to knowledge regarding the residency of convicted sex offenders.

SB 2843 SD1 gives the people of Hawaii the right to vote on registration information regarding persons convicted of sexual offenses. When one considers the far reaching impact to the wider community, we contend that the registration of all convicted sex offenders has a valid, non-punitive regulatory purpose, and therefore does not violate the offender's rights. The people of Hawaii deserve the right to vote on such an important measure. We urge you to pass SB 2843 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.

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