

Age of Consent Task Force—Update

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Prayer Reminders:

- ☺ Pray for our newly elected leaders! Ask God to bless them and guide them throughout their time in office. Particularly for our new Governor and Lt. Governor.
- ☺ Pray for the continued efforts of Hawaii Family Forum.
- ☺ Pray that Physician-Assisted Suicide will never become legalized in the State of Hawaii.

‘Keep Higher Age of Consent’ Says Government Task Force

Prosecutor’s Office Reverses Position – Now Supports New Law

In what can only be described as a remarkable turn of events, a majority of members of the legislatively created age of consent task force voted December 10, 2002 to recommend the Legislature make permanent the higher age of consent bill passed in 2001.

The age of consent issue became part of Hawaii history in July of 2001 when the Legislature, for the first time since statehood, overrode a Governor’s veto. In May 2001, the Legislature voted unanimously to pass the HFF supported bill to raise Hawaii’s lowest in the nation age of consent from 14 to 16. This removed Hawaii’s disgraceful distinction of being the only state in the nation where adults of any age were free to have so-called

consensual sex with 14 and 15 year old minors. Governor Cayetano’s subsequent veto of the proposal appeared to end the issue. However, after strong urging by the public, and much lobbying behind the scenes, the Legislature made history July 10, 2001 by overriding the veto.

In addition to raising the age of consent, the legislation dictated the new law would expire or ‘sunset’ in 2003, forcing the legislature to revisit the discussion. To that end, the legislation created a task force to examine the issues surrounding the age of consent and charged task force members with making a recommendation to the legislature by December 2002.

Task force member Kelly Rosati, Executive

Director of HFF, described the final outcome as ‘stunning’ and a ‘vindication’ for all those community

members who worked so hard to raise the age of consent.

The Task Force held its last meeting December 10, 2002. During that final meeting, 11

members voted to make the higher age of consent permanent in the law while 6 others voted to extend the law for one more year in order to further examine the issue. Only 1 member voted to return Hawaii’s age of consent back to 14.

The most encouraging aspect of the task force’s work was the report from the law enforcement community regarding the impact of the law. Thalia Murphy, sex crimes prosecutor in the Honolulu prosecutor’s

HFF supported [the] bill to raise Hawaii’s ... age of consent from 14 to 16, removing Hawaii’s disgraceful distinction of being the only state in the nation where adults of any age were free to have so-called consensual sex with 14 and 15 year old minors.

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Hawaii's Partnership for Appropriate and Compassionate Care (HPACC) gears up for Assisted Suicide Battle

Expecting a huge battle in the 2003 Legislature, Hawaii's Partnership for Appropriate and Compassionate Care (HPACC) has been actively working to educate the legislature, the public, and medical professionals about the dangers of legalized physician assisted suicide (PAS).

Hawaii fell just 2 votes shy in 2002 of becoming only the second state, after Oregon, to legalize PAS. With such a close margin of defeat, PAS proponents have been working overtime to convince legislators and the public of the merits of PAS.

In response to the threat of PAS, HFF joined with the Hawaii Medical Association in 1998 to form HPACC. Also included in HPACC are the Hawaii Nurses Association, Hospice Hawaii, the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, the Healthcare Association, the Hawaii Cancer Pain Initiative, the Hawaii Catholic Conference, Not Dead Yet (Disability Rights Organization), The Arc in Hawaii, Hawaii Right to Life, and ACLJ of Hawaii.

In January HPACC will be hosting two of our

nation's leading physician opponents of PAS, Dr. Kathleen Foley and Dr. Herbert Hendin. Dr. Herbert Hendin is a Professor at New York Medical College in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Medical Director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Dr. Kathleen Foley is a Professor in the Department of Neurology at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Attending Neurologist, Pain and Palliative Care Service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the Director of the Project on Death in America, Open Society Institute, Soros Foundation, New York

Their book, "The Case Against Assisted Suicide, For the Right to End-of Life Care" was published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. They will be in Hawaii the week of January 6 along with Marilyn Golden of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund. All three will be meeting with policy-makers, medical professionals and the media to outline the dangers of PAS.

HPACC will also be educating the public about PAS through a comprehensive TV, radio and print media campaign slated to begin in January. Stay tuned!

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("Age of Consent" Continued from page 1)

office told task force members that the law was 'an extremely useful tool in holding perpetrators accountable for sexual exploitation of minors.' She reported that her office has prosecuted 16 cases under the new law and that about the same

number of cases are pending prosecution. Neighbor island prosecutors have also used the law with several cases pending on Maui, Hawaii and Kauai.

The Legislature must pass a bill in 2003 to implement the task force recommendation and

maintain 16 as the age of consent. If the Legislature fails to act in this area, the age of consent will revert back to age 14.

Maintaining Hawaii's higher age of consent will be an HFF priority during the 2003 Legislative session. Call us at

Consider a Financial Gift to HFF

As most of you know by now, for nearly five years, HFF has made a point NOT to send you letters throughout the year asking for financial help. Instead, only once each year around this time, we respectfully ask you to prayerfully consider an end of the year gift to HFF.

Well, that time is upon us once again and we sure could use your help. Even though HFF has

experienced great successes over the years, there remains much work to do.

The 2003 legislature is just around the corner and we will be busier than ever: combating the well-financed mainland gambling interests; fighting to keep 16 as the age of consent; and fighting to maintain the sanctity of life and the traditional definition of marriage and family.

The biggest battle of all, however, will be the ongoing attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide.

We couldn't do any of these things without your very generous support. Mahalo for considering adding HFF to your Christmas list.

Have a blessed Christmas with your family!

A Christmas Blessing

"When the wise men saw the star, and they were filled with joy...
They came to where the child was ...
and they bowed down and worshiped him."
Matthew 2:10—11

The board and staff of HFF wish you and your family a blessed and joyous Christmas!



HFF Honors 2002 Volunteers

2002 Recipients of the "Friend of Family" Awards

GOLD CERTIFICATE

(Volunteers who went above and beyond the call to help HFF throughout the year)

★ **Mr. Randy Nishii**

Randy went out of his way to accommodate HFF in various ways. He assisted with the mailing of the monthly newsletters and helped with distribution of the 2002 voter

guides. In addition to that, he helped Eva move the office from the Kailua location to our new spot in Kaneohe. Without his help, we would not have been able to move the office so quickly.

SILVER CERTIFICATES

(Volunteers who spent a significant amount of time assisting HFF)

- ★ Kapono Cicchetto
- ★ Wendy Holck
- ★ Michael Kailing
- ★ Barbara Wegrzyn

BRONZE CERTIFICATES

(Volunteers who gave their time and talent to assist HFF with various tasks and events throughout the year.)

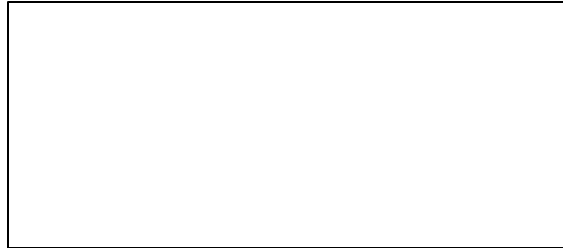
- ★ Aimee Cicchetto
- ★ Fran Mueller

Without the ongoing support and encouragement we receive from partners like these, there is no way we could continue to make a difference in our community. Mahalo to each one of them!



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Facing the issues that face Hawaii's families.

Highlights of 2002 Efforts of Hawaii Family Forum Calendar of Events

- ◆ **PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE:** Stopped the effort to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Hawaii. The battle is not over—proponents will be back in force in 2003.
- ◆ **COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** Worked with Sisters Offering Support to enact a law protecting minors from commercial sexual exploitation and strip clubs and nude massage parlors.
- ◆ **GAMBLING:** Helped stop the effort to legalize gambling in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii remains only one of two states without any form of legalized gambling.
- ◆ **VOTERS' GUIDE:** Conducted a state-wide voter education and registration drive. Over 45,000 copies of the 2002 voters guide were hand-delivered during the primary and general election. In addition, thousands of copies were distributed via individual churches, and over 60,000 people received copies of the voters guide via the *Hawaii Catholic Herald*.
- ◆ HFF continued to coordinate the efforts of **Hawaii's Partnership for Appropriate & Compassionate Care (HPACC)** a coalition which includes the Hawaii Medical Association and various other medical, disability rights, and pro-life groups.
- ◆ **TRAINING WORKSHOP:** Conducted a physician-assisted suicide training day at Kaimuki Christian Church. Over 50 people attended.

- December 23—January 3, 2003
HFF Offices will be minimally staffed.
- January 9, 2003
Pastors' Advisory Board Meeting
- January 11, 2003
Salt & Light Training
Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor
- January 15, 2003
Legislative Session Opens
- January 18, 2003
Legislative Training
St. Plus X