

HAWAII FAMILY FORUM WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

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HFF Welcomes Local Attorney J. Denice von Gnechten

No stranger to family issues, local Christian attorney Denice von Gnechten said “yes” to the challenge of heading up the Hawaii Family Policy Council. On June 16, 2003, Denice began her new role of defending families in Hawaii via Hawaii Family Forum.

A Few Words From the New Executive Director

Aloha Friends! What a blessing it is for me to join Hawaii Family Forum and strive to help Hawaii’s families stay strong, centered and supported. From the days I struggled through law school, knowing God had a purpose for placing me there, I have prayed for a job where I could glorify Him in an effective way. I have prayed too for a position I could approach with passion.

Through a series of events (miracles perhaps), God gave the call and here I am. Now when I wake up each day and pinch myself as I sing praise for a life in paradise, I add a second pinch with the realization that I am working with HFF. What a blessing and a privilege!

Since this is my first HFF newsletter, I thought it appropriate to tell you a bit about myself so that you can get to know me.

I was born and raised by Christian parents in the Appalachian Mountains of Western North Carolina. My family taught me to love God, love my neighbors and love my country. At the age of eleven I gave my life to Christ and have attempted to live for Him ever since. I was baptized in the church where my parents met and were married and where my grandfather still attends. Being a voice for

families has deep roots for me.

In 1989 I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of San Diego and in 1997 a Juris Doctorate degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii. Eighteen years ago, I met the man of my dreams, Rick, (see photo), who quickly won my heart. After three years of marriage, he whisked me off to

his island home and we’ve been here ever since.

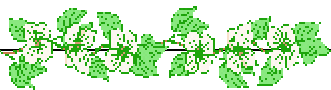
That’s twelve years in paradise--the first three on the Big Island and the last nine here on Oahu. Rick and I are raising our three precious

children, in accordance with God’s design for the family, here in this beautiful gathering place. Being a voice for families is constantly close to my heart.

(Continued on page 2)



New Executive Director Denice von Gnechten and her husband Rick.



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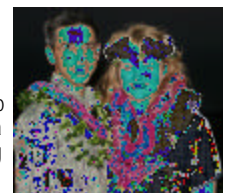
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A SPECIAL ALOHA FROM KELLY

My Dearest Friends:

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to be a part of HFF. The men and women who make up the HFF Board of Directors are among the finest I've ever known. I will miss them all. Working with Leinaala Drummond at the start of HFF was a tremendous blessing. I firmly believe her faithful leadership in praying for HFF provided a deep and firm foundation. I've also been tremendously blessed to work with Eva Simmons (now Andrade) this past year and a half. She has brought tremendous talent and energy to HFF and will continue to provide stability during the transition time. Eva has been a key player in Hawaii's battle for the family for nearly a decade. She's a tremendous resource. Be sure to use her. Finally, I'm thrilled Denice von Gnechten is the new Executive Director. She will provide great new leadership, taking HFF to a whole new exciting level of growth. Please give Denice your strongest support and pray for her as she undertakes this exciting ministry. I'm thankful for her willingness to sacrifice for the sake of ministry. If you think of it, pray for me and my family. I will be entering a new phase of full-time mommyhood. As many of you know, this will bring plenty of challenges of its own - but it is more than worth it. Finally, be sure to always focus on your own family life. No matter how worthy your work or ministry, may it never happen at the expense of your ohana.

With much aloha, Kelly.



From the New Executive Director—continued from page one

Before God opened the door for me to attend law school, I spent a number of years in the legal community as a paralegal. My experiences before, during and after law school have given me much insight into the laws, both good and bad, of our great land, and a newly fueled desire to preserve the principles upon which our country was founded.

I believe we must be diligent to preserve and build on that foundation for our children and our children's children. Being a voice for families is an ongoing challenge for us.

I ask for your fervent prayers and continued support for HFF. Please pray for God's wisdom, courage and strength as we move forward to face the impending challenges. Pray too for the leaders of our city, county, state and country (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Together, with God's help, we can be faithful soldiers of the truth. God is calling you too—to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9) and to be a righteous people.

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What a great country we live in. I hope each of you had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday with your family praising God for and celebrating the birth of our great country and the freedoms we hold dear—one nation under God with liberty and justice for all.

God Bless America and God Bless You!

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you as we labor together for the Kingdom.

HFF Staff Participates in 2003 "Family Day"

HFF Staff took the opportunity to participate in Hawaii's first Family Day on July 5, 2003 at Kapiolani Park.

Denice and Eva (along with their families) manned the HFF booth from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The celebration began at 10:00 a.m. with a Parade (sponsored by Christian Coalition) from Ft. DeRussy to

Kapiolani Park featuring thousands of local keiki, floats, and bands from both Hawaii and the mainland. Also participating were celebrity characters like Lani Moo and Kawika Moo (on an HFD fire engine), Pineapple Pete, and Chuck E. Cheese. Parade onlookers saw vintage cars, state flags carried by officers from Hickam Air Force Base, and of course, Uncle Sam.

Numerous groups performed throughout the day at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand. The area around the bandstand was filled with children's games, rides, displays, arts and crafts, community information booths, and plenty "ono" food booths.

Many people visited the HFF table to get information on the organization. HFF plans to participate again next year.

Age of Consent Permanent at 16

Prior to passage of Act 1 (2001), Hawaii was the only state in the nation where adults were legally free to have so-called consensual sex with 14 and 15 year-old minors.

Hawaii Family Forum advocated for several years for a higher age of consent. In 2001, the Legislature, in bipartisan fashion, raised the age to 16. Then, when Governor Ben Cayetano vetoed the bill, the Legislature again demonstrated great leadership.

They took the extraordinary step of overriding the Governor's veto in order to protect Hawaii's minors from adult sexual exploitation. Historically, this had never happened before.

Act 1 raised the age of consent only temporarily, however, as the Act included a sunset provision of June 30, 2003. It also established a task force to examine the effectiveness of Act 1 and

report back to the Legislature.

As a member of the task force, Kelly Rosati was very gratified to learn of the positive impact of Act 1 from a law enforcement perspective. In a very short time, there have been many prosecutions of adults exploiting minor victims.

In one well-publicized example, a nearly 40-year-old man was caught by police having sex with a 15 year-old girl. This is an exploiter who will now be held accountable and who will finally be unable to violate other young victims.

This would not have been possible without the change in the law. From our perspective, Act 1 has already been very successful.

This is likely why a **majority of the task force voted to make permanent the provisions of Act 1.** (11 members) There was also a healthy minority of members who voted to extend Act 1's

provisions one additional year (7 members) to allow further study, while only 1 member expressed interest in maintaining the law as it existed before Act 1.

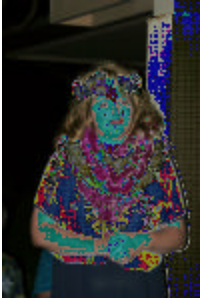
The age of consent was permanently raised in Hawaii when Governor Lingle signed HB 562 into law on May 19, 2003. (Act 62) Both Kelly Rosati and Eva Andrade were present at the signing.

We at HFF commend both the Governor and the Legislature for its important work in protecting minors from adult sexual exploitation.



Governor Linda Lingle, Kelly Rosati, and Attorney General Mark Bennett on May 19, 2003.

Rosati Bids the Islands "Aloha 'O'e"



With tears and an unusual loss for words, Kelly Rosati said goodbye to various friends and allies on May 26, 2003. It was obvious to those in attendance, that Rosati would miss

the job she has held since 1998.

"Each of you has meant so much to me," she said. Looking around at the gathering of over 50 people, Rosati was moved to tears. As were some of the guests.



Kelly and her husband John look on as Radford & Celeste Sagarang sing of "a beautiful woman" and heartfelt goodbyes.

Among those in attendance were long-time friends and advocates: Rev. Marc R. Alexander (past Executive Director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference), Jack Hoag (former leader of the LDS Church), and Janice Pechauer (Save Traditional Marriage Coalition.) Also attending were Cam Cavasso, Walter Yoshimitsu and several pastors from the HFF Pastors' Advisory Board. Rosati's pastor from Kaimuki Christian Church, Ron Arnold and his wife Dee, were also present.

One of the most notable events of the evening was the performance of "Aloha O'e" by Radford and

Celeste Sagarang. In a deep show of support, most of the guests joined in and sang "one fond embrace, farewell to thee, until we meet again." Both Kelly and her husband John were visibly moved.

The evening ended all too quickly. Aloha Kelly! You will be greatly missed and always appreciated. Wherever the road takes you, we pray that God will always be with you and your family!



Kelly poses with HFF Board Members: Bill Paty, Austin Imanura, Mary Lou Brogan, Murray Bawden and Nancy Pace. Missing from picture: Francis Oda, Gill Berger, and Mitch D'Olier.

Other News and Announcements

Shirley Dobson Acknowledges HFF at Hawaiian Island Ministries Event



Mrs. Shirley Dobson, wife of Dr. James Dobson, made time to pose for

pictures with Kelly Rosati after the evening session on March 7, 2003. She acknowledged the work of HFF as a Family Policy Council in Hawaii working to protect local families. Kelly was scheduled to appear on Dr. James Dobson's radio show but had to cancel. Although we receive no funding from Focus on the Family, HFF is associated very closely with their ministry.

Please Support Christian Family Charities!

As the economy continues to rebound, many Christian ministries are in dire

need of financial support. Once again we ask that you consider giving to an organization dedicated to helping families in Hawaii.

Christian Family Charities (CFC), one of HFF's strongest financial supporters, has been working in the local community since 1999. Through their mission to support pro-life causes, their ministry has been able to accomplish many things including the underwriting of Oahu's Aloha Pregnancy Care & Counseling Centers.

Although there has been a major drop recently in donations to non-profit organizations, we strongly encourage you to donate your used vehicles to CFC and recommend you asking your family and friends to do the same. Call 521-GIFT today!

Many of the other worthy organizations that also receive these type of donations will seek your used vehicle—however, only CFC uses the funds they receive on the sale of the car to save the life of an unborn baby. Is it worth it? You decide.

New Executive Director Returns From Colorado Springs

Denice von Gnechten met with key Focus on the Family personnel on June 30, 2003. Kelly Rosati, who is currently in Colorado, was able to show her around the offices and make the introductions to the FOTF staff. Both were extremely grateful for the quality information and support from such a group. HFF staff will be returning to Focus on the Family in October for a Family Policy Training event.

Same Person—New Name

Many of you may have already noticed that our Director of Communications is going by a new name. Well, it's actually an "old" name. Eva Simmons has returned to her maiden name—Andrade.

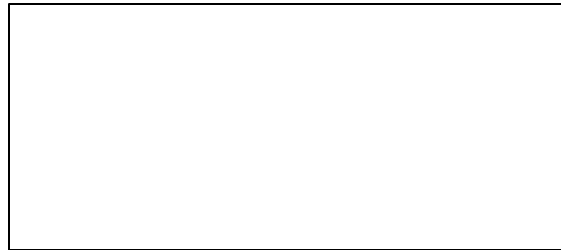
Originally from Pearl City, Eva is a 1981 graduate of Star of the Sea High School.

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Facing the issues that face Hawaii's families.

HFF SCORECARD 2003 Legislative Report (Final)

Description	Status
Physician-Assisted Suicide: Allows a terminally ill, competent adult to get lethal dose of medication to end life. Prohibits mercy killings, lethal injections, and active euthanasia. Requires informed consent. Allows alternate doctor to replace attending doctor if latter declines to prescribe. Requires monitor at time of taking dose.	No bill was heard in committee. DEAD for this session.
Age of Consent: (HB 562 CD 1) Makes permanent the offenses of sexual assault in the 1st degree and sexual assault in the 3rd degree for persons who knowingly engage in sexual penetration with minors at least 14 years old but less than 16 years old, if the offender is not less than 5 years older than and is not married to the minor.	Act 62 SIGNED INTO LAW on May 19, 2003. by Governor Lingle. See page 2 for photo. Visit our website to see the Star Bulletin article naming Kelly Rosati one of 10 most influential people in 2001.
Domestic Violence: (SB 933 CD 1) Strengthens stalking laws to aid victims of domestic violence.	Act 68 SIGNED INTO LAW on May 19, 2003 by Governor Lingle.
Gambling: No bills were heard this session.	No bill was heard in committee. DEAD for this session

Important Prayer Reminders:

- ◆ Pray for Denice and her family as she takes on the position of Executive Director.
- ◆ Continue to pray for Kelly Rosati and her husband John as they begin their new life on the mainland.
- ◆ Pray for the continued educational efforts of HFF.
- ◆ Stay informed on the issues. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call us at 230-2100.