

2004 Legislation Session Continues: HFF Challenges and Opportunities

Inside this issue:

2004 Legislative Update	2
HFF Board Members at the Capitol	2
Local Church Mobilizes to Stop Physician-Assisted Suicide	3
Election 2004: How to Register to Vote	3
Looking Ahead	4

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Letter from the Birmingham Jail April 16, 1963

Hawaii Family Forum is a pro-family research and education organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening the families in Hawaii. HFF is one of 38 Family Policy Councils (FPC) across the nation associated with Dr. James Dobson's Focus on the Family. HFF is an independent entity with no corporate or financial relationship to any other FPC or to Focus on the Family. However, we have a uniform purpose: serving as a voice for the family and assisting advocates for family ideals who aim to recapture the moral and intellectual high ground in the public arena.

A note from HFF Board President, Francis Oda



In some communities across our country, same-sex couples are getting married,

gambling casinos are legal, children have access to library pornography, and ill and depressed patients are given lethal doses of prescription medication by their physicians. For years these special interests groups have been trying to make all of this a reality in Hawaii. To date, Hawaii Family Forum (HFF), in joint collaboration with others, has successfully defended and protected Hawaii's families against all of these threats.

Since 1998, Hawaii has heard, and responded to the voice of HFF. Since 1998, HFF has represented the Christian community to address the challenges of each of the issues described above. Since 1998, HFF and Hawaii's families have been successful in influencing

legislative decisions against each onslaught of well-funded and determined special interests intent on redefining our world.

We now need your help more than ever. Due to financial limitations, HFF has been forced to reduce its staff to a single full-time person. This, in the context of bills arising this year which include same-sex unions, doctor assisted suicide and the protection of children from convicted child pornographers.

We thank God that we and others have been successful in deterring the passage of anti-family bills this year while supporting ones that promote the protection of children. We recognize, however, that this is an election year and the Legislature did not want to deal with any highly contentious issues.

This will not be the case next year. Many think that the same-

sex union legislation, as well as the doctor assisted suicide bill may have the votes needed for passage. In addition, we anticipate that legalized gambling will be re-introduced in several forms.

We need to be prepared and we need your prayers, volunteer help and financial support. We thank the churches and individuals who have and continue to support these efforts. We need

additional help. We ask you to prayerfully consider joining us in this essential and significant ministry. It is for such a time as this that we are called to stand in the gap for Hawaii. We pray that we will never live in a world where the Christian voice will be unheard or unused.

"... we ... have been successful in deterring the passage of anti-family bills this year while supporting ones that promote the protection of children."

Four Ways YOU Can Support Hawaii Family Forum

1. **Pray** for the ongoing efforts of Hawaii Family Forum.
2. **Consider giving** to Hawaii Family Forum on a monthly basis. Even as much as \$25.00 a month can help.
3. **Ask your pastor** to consider becoming a monthly contributor of Hawaii Family Forum. HFF currently has 17 churches who are members of our Pastors' Advisory Board and give on a monthly basis.
4. **Volunteer your time and services** to Hawaii Family Forum. We are in need of support services during this time of transition. If you can help with various administrative duties during working hours (8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.). We would love to hear from you.

HFF SCORECARD

- Stopped same-sex "marriages" from becoming legal
- Prevented legalized gambling
- Led the effort to raise the age of consent in Hawaii from 14 to 16 years of age
- Prevented legalized physician-assisted suicide
- Supported domestic violence prevention legislation
- Protected teenagers from adult sexual exploitation

2004 Legislative Update on State Issues

Following is a list of the bills being tracked by Hawaii Family Forum during the 2004 legislative session. Please visit our website to view all testimony submitted by HFF.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHERS TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDERS (SB 2842 SD 1 HD 1)

This bill requires convicted child pornographers to register as sex offenders.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION (Megan's Law) (SB 2843 SD 1)

This bill requires convicted sex offenders to register. This law was previously passed in Hawaii but was struck down by the Hawaii State Supreme Court in a 2001 ruling that stated it violated the privacy rights of the sex offender. If this bill passes, it will allow the people of Hawaii to vote on the issue via a constitutional amendment. HFF **SUPPORTS** both of these bills because we feel that the people of Hawaii have a right to know if a convicted sex offender moves into their neighborhood.

STATUS: Both bills (SB 2842 SD1 HD1 / SB 2843 SD 1) are currently moving through the House. They are expected to pass.

PAIN MANAGEMENT (HB 1839 HD 2)

This bill gives rights to pain patients. If passed, this bill would authorize doctors to prescribe medically necessary doses of controlled substances to treat serious pain. HFF **SUPPORTS** this legislation, along with Hospice Hawaii, the Hawaii Medical Association, and the Hospital Association. It will continue to improve Hawaii's pain management efforts, end-of-life care and give much needed pain relief to patients.

STATUS: This bill is currently moving through the House. It is expected to pass.

SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORNS (HB 1901 HD 1)

HFF believes that by allowing birthmothers a 'safe haven' opportunity to lovingly ensure the safety and well being of their babies, then precious, helpless, defenseless newborns will be saved. This bill allows a birthmother to safely leave her baby at a hospital instead of abandoning him or her in a life-threatening situation. 48 states have enacted this type of child protection law. HFF **SUPPORTS** this bill and believes that Hawaii should join this majority.

STATUS: This bill is currently pending a joint hearing of the Senate Human Services and Health Committees. Although a similar version passed both the House & Senate in 2003, the

legislation was vetoed by Governor Lingle. We believe that the concerns previously expressed by the Governor have been taken into account and expect this version to pass.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION (HB 537 HD 1)

This bill prohibits discriminatory practices in real property transactions on the basis of sexual orientation. Current language exempts the rental of housing accommodations on property used for church purposes from the application of discriminatory practice requirements. HFF has taken no official position on the bill because the current version provides a religious exemption; however, we agree with opponents of the bill that there is no socially compelling reason to grant special "protected class" status to homosexuals. As we have done in the past, HFF **SUPPORTS** a religious exemption and has provided testimony to that effect.

STATUS: By the time you read this, the bill will have been heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee (04/01/04). Visit our website for the current status.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE (HB 862)

The House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee heard HB 862

(the physician-assisted bill) on March 4, 2004 and immediately passed it out of committee. HFF immediately activated its' network and people in the community contacted their representatives to voice their opposition to this proposed legislation.

STATUS: The issue is far from over. Proponents (and some legislators) promise to take up the issue in 2005 and make every effort to force Hawaii to be the 2nd State to have legalized Physician-Assisted Suicide.

CIVIL UNIONS (HB 1024)

This bill, if it had passed, would have established civil unions and repealed the reciprocal beneficiary law. As written, it extended the same rights and obligations as spouses in a marital relationship to civil union partners and would have forced Hawaii to recognize same-sex marriages and civil unions from other states. HFF **STRONGLY OPPOSED** this bill.

STATUS: The bill died in committee as it did not have a quorum to vote. Proponents of civil unions will not give up. This issue most likely will be back in the 2005 legislative session.

For more information on any of these bills, please visit us on the web at: www.hawaiifamilyforum.org

Capitol Watch: HFF Board Members Testify

DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE:



HFF Board Secretary Nancy Pace, M.D., testified on behalf of Hawaii Family Forum during the recent hearings on physician-assisted

suicide. Dr. Pace has both a personal and professional interest in stopping physician-assisted suicide from becoming law in Hawaii.

In her testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Dr. Pace stressed that end-of-life care

should be the priority of the legislature and not creating laws that force the elderly, or vulnerable citizens into a situation where abuse and coercion could become a potential time bomb.

"The so-called right to die will quickly turn into a duty to die," she reported in her testimony. "Death may become a reasonable substitute to treatment and care. The doctor-patient relationship will be destroyed." She also spoke of her own father who passed away and how precious the last moments of his life were because he was pain-

free and surrounded by family and friends. This, Dr. Pace stressed, is how the end of ones life should be.

CIVIL UNIONS:

On another issue, board member and attorney Sandra Young testified against the proposed Civil Unions bill which was passed out of committee but failed to pass 2nd reading. Citing various concerns with the bill, Ms. Young maintained that "statutes were enacted to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman and to give

reciprocal beneficiary rights to unmarried persons." She also reiterated that current law allows for reciprocal beneficiaries which benefits the wider community. She continues, "The reciprocal beneficiary law is nondiscriminatory because it gives benefits to unmarried persons, including relatives. The proposed civil union bill is discriminatory because it prohibits relatives (who were previously entitled to benefits under the reciprocal beneficiary bill) to enter into civil unions and to receive the incidental benefits of a civil union/marriage."

Local Church Mobilizes to Stop Physician-Assisted Suicide

This testimonial comes directly from Pastor Gisele Ferreira of Hope Chapel Manoa—one of HFF Pastors' Advisory Board Member Churches.

"The genesis of [this experience] came from my brief exposure to government when my church rallied to kill HB 862 - Physician Assisted Suicide bill [March 9, 2004].

When our church was alerted that the Judiciary Committee planned to hear the bill we quickly sent out emails to our members to notify the legislators on this committee their opposition to the bill. I quickly sent out a response, not knowing that this qualified me to testify before their committee the next day. The next morning, after finding out I was listed to

testify, I didn't take this opportunity seriously and went about my business for the morning.

I mentioned this to my friend who confronted me about missing an important opportunity. I quickly rushed to the capitol, praying that my name hadn't been called and three testimonies later I was testifying before the committee. I was so uneducated in the process, but God was with me and I could feel an anointing on me as I spoke.

Unfortunately the committee decided to pass the bill to the full House to vote, but fortunately many of His saints had already been activated. Over the

weekend we rallied and alerted our members to call their legislators to voice their opposition to this bill. During our Sunday service we prayed for our legislators and began to break the spirit of death over the island.

On Tuesday, when the bill was going to be heard, we had over 30 people at the capitol who came to intercede and watch. We found out later in the morning that the legislators had decided during a recess to refer the bill back to the committee, which meant its death for this session. This decision was prompted by over 400+ emails the legislators received in opposition to the bill over the weekend from people all over the state.

So much good fruit has come out of this experience. Our church is now becoming active in restoring "righteousness" into the land by praying and exercising our rights as citizens to voice our concern over bills we believe would be detrimental to society. So many people who previously didn't even know who their representative or senator was have now gone through the process and are gearing up for more battles. As you may know, since this is an election year, controversial bills are not being heard.

I assure you, in the 2005 session, expect to see both Physician Assisted Suicide and Gay Civil Union bills introduced."

HFF Educational Opportunities: Grassroots Involvement

Election 2004: How to Register to Vote in the State of Hawaii

Before you know it, the 2004 election will be upon us. Make sure you are registered to vote. Remember, if you have moved or changed your name, you need to reregister.

- **BY MAIL:** Mail in voter registration forms are widely available. Mail the completed form to the Office of City or County Clerk where you live.
- **IN PERSON:** Visit the Office of the City or County Clerk where you live to complete the voter registration form.
- **DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES:** The State of Hawaii application for a driver's license contains a voter application form. This enables you to apply for voter registration at the same time you register for your driver's license.
- **FORMS:** Voter registration forms are available at Satellite City Halls, public libraries, US Post Offices, state service agencies, the University of Hawaii System, the Verizon Yellow Pages (after page 44) and on the web at www.state.hi.us/elections.
- **DEADLINES:** Primary (08/19) and General (10/04).
- **HAWAII FAMILY FORUM:** We will send you a "Wiki Wiki" form if you contact us.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (808) 230-2100. For further information about HFF, visit us on the web at: www.hawaiifamilyforum.org.

Hawaiian Island Ministries (HIM) "Walk on Water" February 26-28, 2004



On February 26-28, 2004, Focus on the Family staff member Al De La Roché, and HFF's Eva Andrade manned an information table at the HIM's 2004 "Walk on

Water" Conference. During the excellent 2 day conference, hundreds stopped by to learn more about HFF and how they could get more involved in the community to make a difference for families. Mahalo to those of you who stopped by to say "aloha."

Legislators Report High Volume of Community Input Against Physician-Assisted Suicide

Numerous House Representatives reported that they received a deluge of calls, e-mails and faxes from the local community in opposition to physician-assisted suicide. "At least 80% of the respondents were in opposition to physician-assisted suicide," Rep. Romy Mindo reported. HFF (along with various coalition partners) is very pleased with the overwhelming community support to stop HB 862 from passing in the House. Thank you for making a difference by raising your voice to protect vulnerable people at the end of their life from potential abuse and coercion.

For more information on how your church can become more involved in the legislative process, call us at (808) 230-2100 or e-mail us at: info@hawaiifamilyforum.org.

HFF Board

Francis Oda
President

Austin Imamura
Vice-President & Treasurer

Nancy Pace, MD
Secretary

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

Staff

Eva M. Andrade
Director of Communications

The voice for Hawaii's Ohana.

Looking Ahead...

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Maui: April 16-18, 2004
Oahu: April 23-25, 2004
Family Life: "A Weekend to Remember." This weekend is designed to equip couples with Biblical principles for strengthening their marriage. Call 1-800-FL-TODAY for more information.

LIFE OVER DEATH

April 26, 2004
"Life Over Death" video featuring Rep. David Pendleton, Kelly Rosati, Dr. Inam Rahman, Dr. James McKoy, Disability Advocate Dr. Richard Radtke, UH graduate student Chris Niemczyk who is an advocate for the rights of

disabled. HFF director of communications Eva Andrade is the moderator. Olelo Channel 54 @ 5:00 p.m.

June 23-27, 2004
Harvest Crusade with Pastor Greg Laurie at the Waikiki Shell beginning at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Danny Lehmann, Director—Youth With A Mission at (808) 988-7015.

Please call us at (808) 230-2100 if you know of someone who would benefit from our monthly newsletter. If you do not receive e-mail alerts and would like to be added to our list, please e-mail us at: info@hawaiifamilyforum.org

Other Gift Ideas

GIVE A GIFT OF ALOHA TO HAWAII'S PREGNANCY CENTERS (Call to find out how you can educate a mommy and save a babies life.)

Pearson Foundation: (808) 942-0328

Aloha Pregnancy Care & Counseling Centers: (808) 234-7233

DONATE ANY VEHICLE
521-GIFT

Any Car, Van, Truck, Motorcycle, Moped, Boat, Classic, or Real Estate.

Fast EZ Process! Tax Deductible!

•RUNNING	•DAMAGED
•BROKEN	•HIGH MILEAGE

Fast Pick Up
Christian Family Charities
Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.

You may receive up to **\$2000** AND a tax deduction!
Call for details!

Important Prayer Reminders

- 🕯 *For the people of Massachusetts as they fight for a constitutional amendment upholding marriage*
 - 🕯 *For our Supreme Court Justices across the nation*
 - 🕯 *For our troops overseas and their families*
 - 🕯 *For HFF Board and staff as we transition through this period*
 - 🕯 *For the members of the HFF Pastors' Advisory Board*
- HFF reminds you to set aside a prayer time each day.

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO SOMEONE ELSE AND SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE!