

2004 Legislative Session Moves Toward Closure

Inside this issue:

2004 Legislative Update	2
Constitutional Right on the Freedom of Religion	3
Special Mahalo to New HFF Donors	3
Election 2004: How to Register to Vote	3
Looking Ahead	4

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

—Aristotle

(384 BC - 322 BC)

Politics

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.

BOARD COMMITMENT STRONG

Giving is one way you show support for an organization you believe in. We, the board members of Hawaii Family Forum, strongly support the work of our organization. We are dedicated to working collaboratively with our community to make a difference in shaping public policy in Hawaii.

We became board members because we believe that our responsibility to our community is more than a job - it is a ministry. As a board member, it is our responsibility to make sure that the organization is doing its job.

That job is a tough one. From the beginning we understood the need to have a conservative voice in the community. A reasoned voice. A balanced voice. A Christian voice. We believed so strongly in the cause, we were able to do something that forever changed the face of grassroots activism in Hawaii. We brought various denominations of Christians together to one table. One voice.

One of the top goals of HFF is to bring in enough monthly support so we can ultimately sustain two full-time staff members. Right now our financial resources are limited - but hopefully, this will change. This is where you come in. There are three ways you can support the ministry of Hawaii Family Forum:

I. Philosophical:

At this level, as a pastor, you may feel called to become a member of the Pastors' Advisory Board (PAB). It is important to note that at this level we are asking for

support, not as replacement to current Church Mission, but as a component of a local church outreach program. It's not about politics. It's about policy that impacts families. PAB members have the opportunity to shape the public policy decisions of HFF. Members of our PAB provide financial support to HFF ranging from \$25 - \$600 monthly. (Giving has been traditionally based on church size).

II. Operational

On this level, individuals may be called to become a church liaison in which case you help build a Community Action Network (CAN) in your church committee. This form of operational participation is important because it gives HFF the opportunity to tap into an expanded church base. This is critical when we speak out on issues that are important to the preservation of Hawaii's families.

Another choice may be to aid HFF in a voluntary manner. Active participation in tradeshows, assembling newsletters and other mailings, providing administration support during session, and various other volunteer opportunities are always available.

III. Financial

The final component, and most critical at this time, is financial support. HFF is a 501(c)(3) organization so we exist ONLY by the generous donations of people in

the local community. Although any gift amount helps, we are looking for individuals who would like to give \$500, \$250, or \$100 a month. Even a monthly donation of \$25 goes a long way towards aiding us in our mission.

All of our board members are committed to participation at all three levels. We know that many great organizations are competing for your financial gift. We simply ask that you pray and seek guidance as you discern God's will for your tithing. No matter what level you may feel called to participate, we ask that you pray for us in our

ministry.

We thank you for your consideration and pray that God blesses you and your family. Aloha!

A Message from the Hawaii Family Forum Board of Directors

"Participation...[is] a component of a local church outreach program. It's not about politics. It's about policy that impacts families.."

2004 HFF SCORECARD

- Opposed "civil union" legislation and the repeal of reciprocal beneficiaries
- Supported Megan's Law (Constitutional Amendment)
- Opposed proposed legalized physician-assisted suicide legislation
- Supported adding convicted pornographers to the list of sex offenders
- Supported the "Pain Patients Bill of Rights"

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.

PORNOGRAPHERS TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDERS (SB 2842 HD 4)

This bill, supported by the Hawaii Family Forum (HFF), requires persons convicted of crimes involving child pornography to register as sex offenders. Once passed, convicted pornographers will have to register as sex offenders. That means that you will know if they move into your neighborhood.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

(Megan's Law)
(SB 2843 SD1 HD2)

In a 2001 ruling, the Hawaii State Supreme Court reversed Hawaii's Megan's law. Their ruling stated that it violated the privacy rights of the sex offender. Since then, people of Hawaii have been denied information regarding 1,900+ convicted sexual offenders. The controversy over the bill surrounded the level of reporting.

The current version allows the legislature to define what those offenses should be—and gives the people the right to vote on the issue via a constitutional amendment. (The only way to reverse a court ruling.)

There was some trouble with the bill when the House Judiciary Committee

amended the bill to a moot degree. Thankfully, some of you phoned and e-mailed your legislators and supported the more appropriate Senate version. Because of your action, the House position is now more closely aligned with the Senate version. Remember, once the Megan's Law amendment passes, it will be added to the ballot in November. At that time, you will be given to the opportunity to vote on the matter.

HFF strongly supported this measure along with the Attorney General's Office, the Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition, and the Victim Witness Kokua Services. We will keep you posted on the progress and provide you with information as the election draws nearer.

PAIN PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS (HB 1839 HD 2 SD 2)

This bill gives rights to pain patients. And authorizes doctors to prescribe medically necessary doses of controlled substances to treat serious pain.

HFF believes that people, who are experiencing pain, deserve options for pain management. We supported 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.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION (HB 537 HD 1 SD 1)

This problematic bill (which is thankfully dead this session because the Conference Committee refused to move it forward based on a number of reasons) prohibited discriminatory practices in real property transactions on the basis of sexual orientation. It is important to note that the exemption language in the latest version applied to religious or denominational organizations and not to religious individuals; however, Christians and non-Christians would have been able to refuse rental on a room in their own home or the duplex attached to their home. If a bill like this one had passed, individuals would not have been protected if they wanted to rent out units in their apartment building or a condominium. HFF agrees with opponents of the bill that there is no socially compelling reason to grant special "protected class" status to homosexuals.

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

On May 17, 2004, unless there is a last minute miracle, the State of Massachusetts will begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Some legal experts claim that Defense of Marriage Act may not hold up under the scrutiny of our liberal Supreme Court once challenges are made to the Full Faith and Credit Clause. The only answer to a liberal verdict of the courts would be

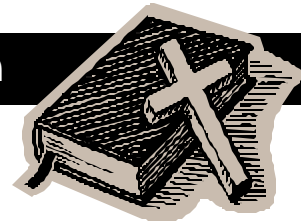
the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA). The FMA (to define marriage to one man and one woman) is needed to protect the definition of traditional marriage. The FMA is in serious trouble today. Hawaii's congressional delegation is opposed to amending the constitution to protect traditional marriage; however, they still need to hear from you. If the future of the traditional family is important to you, please commit to contacting Senator Akaka, Senator Inouye, Representative Case, and Representative Abercrombie as soon as possible.

For a comprehensive look at why the FMA is necessary, see the Focus on the Family Website at the following url: <http://www.family.org/cforum/fosi/marriage/faqs/a0026916.cfm> If you need contact information regarding your congressman and senators, or do not know who they are, including district office numbers, visit our website or call us at (808) 230-2100.

To stay abreast of the latest developments in the battle to save marriage—and many other issues important to the family—or to receive up-to-the-minute action alerts on how you can make a difference, [sign up](#) to receive HFF's email news service. Send e-mail requests to: info@hawaiifamilyforum.org

Contact us at (808) 230-2100 if you have any questions or need further information.

Constitutional Right on the Freedom to Practice Religion



One's right to freely exercise one's religious belief is a cornerstone of both our federal and state constitutions. In fact, the liberty to freely exercise one's religion has been described as America's first freedom.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states, in relevant part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." (Emphasis added.) While the



specific text references Congress, its prohibition on government infringement of religion applies to any state action as well.

The Hawaii State Constitution similarly protects the free exercise of religion. Article I, Section 4 provides "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." (Emphasis added.)

These religious freedom protections are an absolutely

essential part of our civil liberties in Hawaii. Indeed, the Hawaii legislature must recognize the importance of religious freedom protections as a part of otherwise generally applicable law. Laws that contain a religious exemption, we believe, reflect Hawaii's tradition of tolerance and pluralism. Through a religious exemption, consideration is given to diverse points of view.

Hawaii Family Forum strongly believes that Legislation can be crafted to accommodate the broader public policy goal, while at the same time respecting the constitutionally protected

sincerely held religious beliefs of others in the community.

At issue is the balancing of rights – the constitutional right to freely exercise one's religion versus what some are hoping to make a statutory right to force religious institutions to violate their core beliefs.

We believe that religious rights can be balanced through the adoption of a religious exemption. Without one, Constitutional problems could arise.

HFF Educational Opportunities: Grassroots Involvement

A SPECIAL MAHALO & ALOHA

Hawaii Family Forum would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals who recently rose to the challenge of providing special financial support to us during this time of transition:

*Brigitte Amodo
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Asano
McMahon & McMahon
Beverly Page
Mr. & Mrs. John Pechauer
Mr. Robert Taylor*

Without the continued kindness of individuals like these, we simply could not continue our efforts in the community. As always, we are truly grateful for our monthly supporters. Please consider joining the network of monthly donors. Call us at (808) 230-2100 for more information on how you become part of our statewide community network.

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.

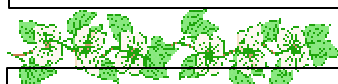
- BY MAIL: Mail in voter registration forms are widely available. Mail the completed form to

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.
- FROM US: If you contact our office, we will be more than happy to send you a Wiki Wiki Voter Registration Form.
- DEADLINES: **Primary (08/19) and General (10/04).**

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

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@hawaiiifamilyforum.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

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5227

Phone: (808) 230-2100
Fax: (808) 230-2102
Email: info@hawaiifamilyforum.org
Website: www.hawaiifamilyforum.org

The voice for Hawaii's Ohana.

Looking Ahead...

May 6, 2004

"LET FREEDOM RING"
National Day of Prayer
The [National Day of Prayer](#) was established by an act of Congress in 1952. This year, 20,000 organized observances will take place nationwide. The National Day of Prayer encourages Americans to pray for their nation, its people and its leaders. This year's theme is "Let Freedom Ring" based on Leviticus 25:10, "...proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."

The freedom to gather, to worship, and to pray is something that has always been a pillar of our nation and we need to exercise our freedoms by gathering in the public square and seeking the face of Almighty God for our troops, our leaders and our nation.

As America is still a nation at war, fighting for freedom, thousands of

people across the nation plan to gather, to bow their heads in prayer for the nation and our troops. For more information, log onto www.nationaldayofprayer.net.

May 15, 2004

HOW TO WALK 2004
Calvary Chapel
Hilton Hawaiian Village

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

GIVE A GIFT OF ALOHA TO HAWAII'S PREGNANCY CENTERS (Call to find out how you can educate a young woman 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!