

# Legislative Week-in-Review

This notice is also an official public policy announcement of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

Friday, March 02, 2007  
10:20 AM

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## **Bill to Fight Genocide Still Alive!**

After some troubling preliminary signals, the House Finance Committee on February 28, passed the Sudan divestment bill ([click here to read HB 34](#)), which would require that the state employee retirement system (ERS) remove funds from foreign companies that support the genocidal Sudanese government. [Click here to see our resources on this topic.](#)

## **Civil Unions Dies in House Judiciary – for now**

House Judiciary Chair Tommy Waters announced his decision to defer HB 908 after more than 5 hours of testimony on Tuesday evening. His decision has caused an outcry with same sex marriage proponents, who are demanding a vote. **What has not been particularly public, however, is that proponents appeared to have only 4 of 16 votes on the committee, with one member absent.**

This decision means that, effectively, the bill is dead for this year absent an extraordinary legislative procedural maneuver. [Click here to read our testimony](#) and find [additional resources](#). It appears we have moved to an unfortunate new place where civil unions will be a regular off-election year issue for years to come, just like physician assisted suicide.

## **Planned Parenthood's Attack on CCH's Abstinence Program Alive & Well**

For the fifth year in a row, planned parenthood is pushing a bill that would prevent Catholic Charities successful federally funded abstinence education program from being eligible for state sexual health education funds. We managed to stop the bill in the House Judiciary Committee (HB 464), but the Senate version (SB 1117 SD1) is alive and well, passed out of the Senate Health Committee Wednesday. [Click here for latest version of the bill.](#) The Senate bill will cross over to the House, where we will continue to oppose it. [Click here to read our testimony.](#)

## **Planned Parenthood's Attack on St. Francis/Hawaii Medical Centers Alive and Well**

SB 1110 SD1, which would require all hospitals to dispense emergency contraception to sex assault victims, also passed out of the Senate Health Committee without an exemption for the Hawaii Medical Centers, which operate on land owned by St. Francis. [Click here for latest version of the bill.](#) The mandate comes despite the Centers' contractual arrangement with St. Francis to operate the Centers in accordance with the ethical and religious directives of St. Francis. Senate Health Committee members knew of these details and chose not to accommodate the St. Francis concerns, opting instead to force the Centers to dispense the EC pills, which can operate as abortifacients. In announcing his decision, Health Committee Chair David Ige noted Catholic hospitals on the mainland dispense the EC pills. (Click here to read the testimony of [St. Francis](#) and the [Hawaii Medical Center](#))

## **Affordable Housing & Homeless Bills Still Alive**

[HB 150 HD1](#), [SB 1917 SD1](#) and [SB 1450 SD1](#) are the primary legislative vehicles still alive addressing the crucial issues of affordable housing and homelessness. The common areas of focus for both the Lingle Administration and the Legislature include: more money in the rental housing trust fund, additional funds for repair and maintenance, more emergency and transitional operations funds, and better incentives for affordable housing developers, including the streamlining of some current processes. These measures are works in progress with the final products to be worked out in conference committees at the end of session. Click the links above to read bills. [Click here to read our testimony on these, and many other, bills.](#)

For more information on these and many other proposals, [log onto our website.](#)

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