

# Legislative Week-in-Review

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

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Editor: Kelly M. Rosati, JD

Aloha Friend of the Family,

We've crossed the halfway point of the 2007 legislative session where bills originating in one chamber must have 'crossed over' to the other chamber. We are now in the second half of the session, with many issues still alive.

Other issues, thankfully, are dead for this year. Among the worst proposals dead for this year: physician assisted suicide and civil unions. And while we're pleased with this year's victories, these two issues will continue to emerge in the years to come. So, we must stay ready.

Below are the highlights from this week.

## **Divest from Sudan—Help Fight Genocide!**

HB 34, which would require the employee retirement system (ERS) to divest state funds from companies that support the genocidal Sudanese government, passed the House Floor by a vote of 47 (yes) and 4 (excused). It has crossed over to the Senate and been referred to a joint committee of the Senate **Transportation & International Affairs Committee and the Senate Judiciary. If passed, it would move to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.** ([Click here to read our testimony.](#)) Stay tuned for details on how you can help pass HB 34.

## **Safe Haven**

HB 1830 HD2, which would allow desperate birthmothers to safely leave their newborns at hospitals, police stations and fire stations, without fear of prosecution, passed the House floor by a vote of 45 (yes), 2 (no) and 4 (excused). It has crossed over to the Senate and has been referred to the Human Services & Public Housing Committee. If passed, it would move to the Senate Judiciary Committee. ([Click here to read our testimony.](#))

## **Health Care Coverage for Uninsured Children**

HB 1008 HD2, which creates a public private partnership to provide health care coverage for children without any, passed the House by a vote of 48 (yes) and 2 (excused). It crossed over to the Senate and has been referred to a joint hearing of the Senate Human Services & Public Housing Committee and the Senate Health committee. If passed, it would move to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. ([Click here to read our testimony.](#))

## **Palliative Care Resources**

HB 1495 HD2, which would improve end of life care in Hawaii by providing funds for improved palliative care (comfort care), passed the House floor by a vote of 48 (yes) and 3 (excused). It has crossed over to the Senate and has been referred to the Senate Health Committee. If passed, it would move to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. ([Click here to read our testimony.](#))

## **Reciprocal Beneficiaries**

The contents of HB 1587, which would restore previously available state employee health care coverage to reciprocal beneficiaries, were amended to HB 1290 HD1 on the House floor by a vote of 34 (yes), 6 (no) and 11 (excused). We supported the move because RBs are not based on sex partner status but simply provide benefits to people in need. ([Click here to read our testimony on RBs.](#)) Contrary to confusing media reports, no part of the civil unions bill passed the House. ([Click here for a full explanation of this week's action.](#) ([Click here for status of HB 1290 HD1 and to see vote description.](#)))

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

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