

Legislative Week-in-Review

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

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Great Legislative Session Continues!

GOOD BILLS STILL ALIVE . . .

Many of HFF/HCC's legislative priorities are still alive and well. Summaries of a few are below.

Sudan Divestment

One of our top legislative priorities, [HB 34 SD 1](#) (click bill number to read bill), which requires the Employee Retirement System (ERS) to divest (remove) state funds from companies actively supporting the genocidal Sudanese government, is three-fourths of the way through the legislative process, having passed the House, and the Senate Judiciary and International Affairs Committees. Approximately 400,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million displaced in the Darfur region of Sudan. It is the world's first ONGOING genocide. The least we can do is not make money off of genocide. The last legislative stop before Gov.

Lingle: Senate Ways and Means Committee. [Click here to e-mail WAM Chair Roz Baker and ask her to pass HB 34 SD 1.](#)

Adoption Parity for Foster Kids

Both House and Senate versions of the Lingle Administration proposal, which would eliminate a horrible disincentive for the adoption of foster kids, [HB 1356 HD2](#) and [SB 1442 SD2](#) (click bill numbers to read bills), are still alive. HFF/HCC strongly supports these measures.

Keiki Care – Health Care Coverage for Uninsured Children

[HB 1008 HD2](#) (click bill number to read bill), which will provide health care coverage for uninsured children, is still moving. HFF/HCC strongly supports efforts to cover this gap group of uninsured children through this public-private partnership proposal.

Safe Haven for Newborns

[HB 1830 HD2](#) (click bill number to read bill), which would provide immunity from prosecution for birthmothers who safely surrender their newborn children, just passed the Senate Human Services & Public Housing Committee and is headed for the Senate Judiciary Committee. It already passed the House nearly unanimously. 47 states have safe haven laws and many babies have been saved, many of whom might otherwise have been found dead.

Affordable Housing/Homelessness

[HB 150 HD2](#), [SB 1917 SD3](#) and [SB 1450 HD1](#) (click bill numbers to read bills) 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.

Better Domestic Violence Protections, End of Life Care Improvements, and Homeless Children Task Force . . . All still Alive!

BAD BILLS DEAD . . .

Abstinence Attack Thwarted

[SB 1117 SD1](#), the Planned Parenthood attack on abstinence education died this week when it failed to receive a hearing in the House Education Committee. The House version of the same bill died earlier in the session in the House Judiciary Committee after a lengthy committee hearing where members learned about Catholic Charities successful, federally funded abstinence program called Try Wait. This is the 5th year we have defeated this bad legislative proposal.

Religious Freedom Protected

[SB 1110 SD1](#) (click bill number to read bill), which would have required the Hawaii Medical Centers to dispense emergency contraceptives, which can act as abortifacients, in violation of their hospital contract with St. Francis Medical Centers, is dead in the House. This is the 4th year in a row we have defeated this proposal. Since the sale of St. Francis, stopping this proposal has become much more difficult as the Hawaii Medical Centers are secular entities.

Physician Assisted Suicide

Dead again.

Civil Unions & Domestic Partners

Dead again.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research & Cloning

Dead again.

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

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