

# HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

## ISSUES UPDATE

### ■ PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE ■

#### CURRENT STATUS

Senator Matsuura (D—Hilo) held firm to his commitment to defer the physician-assisted suicide bill despite last minute rallying by PAS proponents to pull the bill from committee. Nine votes are needed from the Senate to pull the bill. Thankfully, so far, it hasn't happened.

#### GRASS ROOTS EFFORTS MADE THE DIFFERENCE

All across Hawaii, people prayed and kept praying for the Senate to do the right thing. HFF spent countless hours, working closely with other allies, lobbying key Senators and alerting PAS opponents to the threat. The efforts of everyone working together most likely have saved us this session from being only the second state in the nation (after Oregon) to legalize physician-assisted suicide.

Mahalo to all of you who took the time to call and write. It does make a difference!

#### NEXT YEAR

While things look good as of this writing, keep praying. Until the Legislature adjourns May 2, HFF will be on guard and keep you informed. Be forewarned – many Senators have been telling HFF that while the Senate won't proceed THIS YEAR, PAS will be on the agenda for next year.

Proponents have been receiving assurances from some Senators that the Senate will address PAS during the 2003 legislative session. As a result, we have significant work cut out for us during the interim.

[Gambling update on other side]

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## HAWAII FAMILY FORUM

### ■ GAMBLING ■

#### **CURRENT STATUS**

The Senate's difficulty balancing the state budget is creating an opening for gambling proponents, according to an April 12 warning from a Senate ally to the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. The Senate's recent decision not to tap into Hawaii's Hurricane Relief Fund has left a funding shortfall in the Senate's version of the state budget. The quick-fix 'solution' of selling a multi-million dollar casino license to a Ko Olina developer may be on the table as the legislative session nears its end May 2.

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Please continue contacting your Senator and Representative to express your opposition to legalized gambling in Hawaii.

### ■ VOTER EDUCATION COMING UP ■

For your use in the November election, we will be providing the community with voter education material, including important information on where the candidates stand on many crucial issues.

### ■ ACTION ITEMS ■

1. Pray for your elected officials.
2. Stay educated on the issues.
3. Contact your own Senator and Representatives.
4. Request a copy of the HFF newsletter. Get on the fax alert list. Contact Eva Simmons at (808) 230-2100 for more information or e-mail us at [info@hawaiiifamilyforum.org](mailto:info@hawaiiifamilyforum.org)

Contact your State Representative and Senator.  
Log onto: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> or call  
the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478  
For more information on the legislative process.

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