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HOUSING DISCRIMINATION (HB 537 HD 1 SD 1)

This problematic bill (which is thankfully dead this session because the Conference Committee refused 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, 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 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.

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 For more information, contact us at the phone numbers listed on the front of this flyer.

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Ohana News in Brief

May, 2004

Following is a list of the bills tracked by Hawaii Family Forum during the 2004 legislation session. The legislative session is scheduled to end on May 7, 2004. The bills, unless otherwise noted, are expected to pass.

CHILD 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 surrounds 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 emailed 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 and 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. This bill will authorize doctors to prescribe medically necessary doses of controlled substances to treat serious pain. In addition, this bill

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