

Ohana News in Brief

This year was a great success for Hawaii Family Forum, and we couldn't have done it without the graciousness of God and the support of people like you! Listed below are the top ten successes of HFF over the past year. Please know that we could have never accomplished any of the following things without your prayers and ongoing support and we appreciate it more than you know:

1. **Defeated the attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Hawaii.** Helped mobilize the HFF led coalition of medical, disability rights and pro-life groups to convince the Legislature NOT to make Hawaii the second state in the nation to legalize PAS.
2. **Defeated legislative proposals to establish an official state policy in favor of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.** Encouraged the promotion of adult stem cell research.
3. **Facilitated ongoing discussions with UH Medical School researchers and a leading international scientific expert.** Secured a commitment from the medical school (as of this newsletter date, no task force has been convened) to include HFF on the legislatively suggested statewide task force on the topic.
4. **Defeated legislation mandating that pro-life, Catholic hospitals act contrary to their mission by dispensing abortifacient pills.**
5. **Helped pass legislation to provide parents tools to protect their children from the registered sex offenders living in their neighborhoods.** (Megan's law) HFF sponsored ½ page newspaper ads supporting Megan's law. HFF also played a key role in informing and involving Christian moms to help make the case to the policymakers. Finally, HFF played a prominent role in educating the

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people of Hawaii about the on-line resources available in this regard. Families can continue to access this important information directly from the HFF website.

6. Received a state government subcontract to recruit from the faith-based community families for the abused and neglected children in our midst whose only legal parent is the state of Hawaii. In partnership with HOPE INC, HFF will find “**Families for Waiting Keiki**”. HFF will schedule speaking engagements in churches across Oahu to bring education and awareness to the faith community. Call Gisele at (808) 232-4264 for more information.

7. Presented a seminar titled End of Life Care Decisions: How to Avoid the Terri Schaivo situation twice in 2005 (Oahu and Maui) to educate the community about the need to prepare in advance for difficult end of life decisions. Sponsored by HFF, the Hawaii Catholic Conference and the Christian Legal Society, the forum brought a biblical perspective to the complicated issues surrounding end of life decisions.

8. Conferred our first ever “Friend of the Family Awards” to Hawaii Attorney General Mark Bennett and Honolulu Prosecutor Peter Carlisle for their work in the passage of Megan’s law. **Governor Lingle was among the 100 guests** at the elegant evening event at St. Stephen’s dining hall overlooking Kailua bay.

9. Received the ‘2005 Best Legislative Victory Award’ from Focus on the Family for the defeat of physician-assisted suicide proposals.

10. Successfully supported legislative proposals related to affordable housing and homelessness.