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## **PROTECTING UNBORN CHILDREN FROM 3RD PARTY PERPETRATORS**

### **Laci/Conner/Scott Peterson Legislation**

Many of you remember the recent Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the Aiwohi case where the Hawaii Supreme Court was forced to acknowledge the current Hawaii statutes do not protect unborn children as "persons" in our criminal code. SB 2767 and HB 2988 were introduced by Hawaii's law enforcement coalition (police, prosecutors, and the Attorney General's office) to provide limited protection to viable unborn children who are injured or killed by third party perpetrators. It does not address abortion or the mother's conduct.

While we would certainly prefer much broader protection for unborn children, this is a good measure. Without it, perpetrators, like Scott Peterson, will face NO accountability for injuring or killing an unborn child. This proposal faces an extremely uphill battle. Hawaii's so-called 'women's groups' have been on record opposing any and all separate protection for unborn children at any stage of their development.

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## Ohana News in Brief

Since the January 18, 2006, opening of the 2006 legislature, we (Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference) have testified on nearly 20 legislative proposals. To see all of the testimony submitted by HFF, please visit our website at: [www.hawaiifamilyforum.org](http://www.hawaiifamilyforum.org). Below is an overview of key issues.

### ASSISTED SUICIDE

#### Quiet for Now

As we expected, three bills to legalize physician-assisted suicide were introduced early in the session. We sent out an alert and many of you took time out of your busy schedules to make a phone call. Because of your efforts now and in years past (and some behind the scenes discussions), it looks like we may be safe for this session. At this time, hearings are not planned in either the House or Senate Health Committees. We, of course, will remain vigilant until session ends. If the bills begin to move, we will immediately alert you. Mahalo for getting involved. It made a difference.

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

As in prior years, a bill that would force St. Francis Hospital against its religious convictions to administer emergency contraceptives that can cause early abortion to sex assault victims (HB 2059), was heard in the House Health Committee. This newest version of the bill did NOT include a religious exemption for St. Francis. We submitted testimony and participated in the committee discussion. Thankfully, the House Health Committee, under the leadership of Representative Dennis

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