

**HB 615**

**HD1**

**EDT**



TO: Senator Fukunaga, Chair, Senator Baker, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: Ana Maring, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB615 HD1 Relating to Harassment, March 16, 2009, 9:00am

Aloha, my name is Ana Maring and I represent the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV). HSCADV is a private non-profit agency which serves as a touchstone agency for the majority of domestic violence programs throughout the state. For many years HSCADV has worked with the Hawaii Legislature by serving as an educational resource and representing the many voices of domestic violence programs and survivors of domestic violence.

HSCADV supports HB 615 HD1 and HB 622 HD1 Relating to Harassment.

The Internet has opened in worlds of information and communication to our communities. It has helped victims reach out to shelters and hotlines to get information about intimate partner abuse and the safety tools available to them. Unfortunately this same technology, when placed in the hands of a batterer, can become a tool to harass victims. Victims can be reached any place and anytime by their batterer through many electronic devices. This type of harassment can have serious emotional and financial impact. Many batterers will use electronic harassment to impact a victim's work status by getting the victim fired.

Our laws must reflect the growing technology that impacts the safety of victims.

For further information please access the following links:

<http://www.endabuse.org/health/ejournal/archive/1-3/Tucker.pdf>

[http://www.nnedv.org/docs/SafetyNet/NNEDV\\_SpywareAndSafety.pdf](http://www.nnedv.org/docs/SafetyNet/NNEDV_SpywareAndSafety.pdf)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.