

## LATE TESTIMONY

George J. Zweibel, Esq.  
President, Board of Directors

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Interim Executive Director

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB812 HD1 - Relating to Domestic Violence

February 23, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i ("Legal Aid") hereby provides testimony to the Committee on Human Services **in support of** HB812, relating to Domestic Violence which allows victims of domestic violence to terminate his or her rental agreement.

Legal Aid is the largest non-profit, private legal services organization in the State. We provide legal services for domestic violence victims and is one of the only legal service organizations to have a unit dedicated housing.

We are in support of this bill as it is critical for victims of domestic violence to be in a secure and safe home after an incident of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or harassment by stalking. Victims of these abuses should have the ability to terminate a lease without penalty in order to seek a safer housing situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jennifer La'a  
Fair Housing Program Manager  
Domestic Violence Project Manager

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 812**

2/23/2009 at 2:00 p.m.

# LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Herkes, Chair Karamatsu, and members of the CPC and JUD Committees,

My name is Keone De Freitas and I am testifying in **support** of HB 812. I strongly support this measure because I believe that it is important to give victims another option of getting away from the abuser. Being forced to stay with the abuser because of rental agreement is dangerous and increases the chance of further victimization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Monday, February 23, 2009 at 2:00 PM CR – 325

In Support of HB 812– Relating to Domestic Violence

Aloha Chair Robert Herkes, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai and members of Consumer protection & Commerce.

I am Dr. Inam Rahman, a medical doctor practicing in Hawaii for 15 years.

I strongly support HB 812 because it does not only protect victims of domestic violence but also puts responsibility to the owners of the residence to take some responsibility to protect victims of domestic violence against offenders of sex assaults and harassment by stalking. Every time a person especially women or a child is abused, it leaves a permanent scar not only to the victims but also to the whole family. I strongly believe that his bill is crucial at this point in time because of too many incidences of domestic violence which continue to grow in number. Let's take responsibility in protecting our children, our families and citizens by passing HB 812

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

Inam Rahman, MD  
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