

PEA Committee

From: Barbara Mattson <bmat255255@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2017 9:24 AM
To: PEA Committee
Cc: Mike White; Robert Carroll; Stacy S. Crivello; Alika A. Atay; Elle Cochran; Donald S. Guzman; Kelly King; Riki Hokama; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: PEA-4(1) Maui County 2018 Legislative Pkg- A Bill Enacting Victims Rights

I am writing to ask you to PLEASE VOTE YES ON INCLUSION IN PEA-4(1) of the bill enacting *more stringent enforcement* of the HAWAII BASIC BILL OF RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES in the 2018 Maui County Legislative Package.

A recent dangerous and unstable escapee from the Hawaii State mental institution with a murder record was able to get on two planes and leave our state BEFORE the family of the murdered woman and the public were notified. I want you to think about how that would affect you were it your child, parent, aunty, tutu's killer who escaped. Think about the terror, anger, and anguish you would feel hearing this information days after it occurred because "*although we have a state statute for victims rights - HS 801D is not enforced*".

I want you to think about your son or daughter being raped or murdered - they and you are traumatized beyond words. Yet YOU must continually call for information on your case because NO NOTIFICATIONS ARE SENT OUT BY THE PROSECUTORS OFFICE. It is a state mandate! Yet victims must beg for information!

Hawaii is one of 15 states without a constitutional amendment guaranteeing Victims Rights as set forth in Hawaii Statute 801D. WHY???

Last year, Marsy's Law was presented before our state with over 100 testimonies in favor of the law. **The ONLY Prosecutors office in the state that opposed Marsy's Law was Maui County, run by JD Kim. WHY???**

A Maui County Council member "suggested" enforcing victims rights would open county employees up to civil litigation and thus would be "irresponsible" of the county. **Irresponsible to uphold the law ??? the state statute???**

If you are employed by the county or State you are entrusted with duties to protect the public, and accountable when a wrong has occurred. It does not impede the system, it makes it run with **TRANSPARENCY, with ACCOUNTABILITY**. It provides a REMEDY.

By not amending HS 801D to enforce victims rights The County is essentially absolving itself of its duties to victims and the public.

This bill would support the constitutional rights victims and witnesses already have as common citizens.

I humbly ask you to PLEASE VOTE YES ON INCLUSION IN PEA-4(1) of the bill enacting *more stringent enforcement* of the HAWAII BASIC BILL OF RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES in the 2018 Maui County Legislative Package.

Thank you.
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