



MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
HAWAII

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To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair – Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs; Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair; and member of the Committee

Senator Colleen Hanabusa, Chair – Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, Clayton Hee, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee

From: Carol H. McNamee – Chair, Public Policy Committee - MADD-Hawaii

Re: Senate Bill 2433 – Relating Appropriations for Career Criminal Prosecution Units and Victim Witness Assistance Programs

I am Carol McNamee, representing the Hawaii Office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, testifying in support of Senate Bill 2433.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is one of the largest victim support organizations in the world with chapters in every state, Guam, Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia and Japan. Our victim assistance staff and volunteer victim advocates provide support and advocacy services to hundreds of victims of drunk driving and other violent crimes throughout the state each year. MADD Hawaii's victim support services are funded in part by federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding which is administered by the Victim Witness Assistance Program of the Departments of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Every victim seriously injured and every family who suffers the loss of a loved one to a sudden violent crime experiences a life-altering trauma that will permanently impact them. The Victim Witness Assistance Programs in each county provide information, assistance, and support services to the victims and witnesses of crimes that occur in Hawaii. These services are integral to ensure that victims and witnesses are treated with fairness and respect and their safety and concerns are addressed as they journey through the often overwhelming and intimidating court system.

The Victim Witness Assistance Programs also facilitate important partnership in the community with victim support providers and other community resources to create a continuum of services for victims and witnesses of crime.

Each county Victim Witness Assistance Program also administers the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. In Hawaii, this federal funding provides direct victim services via Victim Witness staff positions and grants to crime victim service agencies in

the community. VOCA funding is vital to each state's ability to provide important and needed victim services but does not allow for administrative costs. It is therefore essential that the state provide the county Victim Witness Assistance Programs with the funding necessary to adequately administer this federal funding. Without this funding, the community base we serve would be unreachable and support services could not be provided to the victims of violent crime in our community.

MADD encourages the committee to pass Senate Bill 2433. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.