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January 17, 2006

For Immediate Release

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### **Supreme Court's Oregon v. Gonzales Decision Holds No Practical Impact on Hawaii's Assisted Suicide Debate**

"Today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court has no impact on Hawaii's public policy debate over legalized assisted suicide," said Kelly Rosati, executive director of Hawaii Family Forum, public policy spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, and coordinator of Hawaii's Partnership for Appropriate and Compassionate Care (The Partnership).

"As was the case before the decision, lawmakers have a public policy decision to make: Do they want Hawaii to be only the second state in the nation to enact the highly controversial assisted suicide legislation or do they want to focus on areas of consensus by improving end of life care for all Hawaii residents?" she continued.

"We believe they want to focus on improving end of life care and will work toward that end," Rosati predicted. "Lawmakers have learned during our 7 years of debate on this subject that assisted suicide is strongly opposed by Hawaii's medical community, including the Hawaii Medical Association, by Hawaii's disability rights community and by much of the faith community," Rosati noted. "Policy that unites such disparate groups in strong opposition is policy that should be broached very cautiously."

The Partnership believes legal assisted suicide will turn the right to die into a duty to die, will lead to unintended abuse and coercion of vulnerable citizens and will do immeasurable harm to the physician patient relationship.

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit pro-family organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. Hawaii Catholic Conference represents the Roman Catholic Church in the state of Hawaii, which represents 230,000 Catholics statewide. Hawaii's Partnership for Appropriate and Compassionate Care represents medical, disability rights and faith organizations allied in their opposition to assisted suicide and their support of better end of life care.

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