
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:42 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: steve.onken@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM349 on 3/17/2009 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for JGO 3/17/2009 9:30:00 AM GM349

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven Onken
Organization: Individual
Address: 2233 Ala Wai Blvd 18A Honolulu HI
Phone: 808-923-1951
E-mail: steve.onken@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

My work to prevent violence directed at gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and intersexual (GLBTI) people has brought home to me how interconnected all violence is. We cannot prevent violence against women and children if we tolerate violence against GLBTI people. Part of how such violence is sanctioned is the denial of the targeted group as full human beings with the associated responsibilities and rights. Stan Koki does not conduct himself in accordance with recognizing me as a full human being. Please do not confirm him for another term on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you.

**Testimony in Opposition
to the Appointment of Stanley T. Koki as Civil Rights Commissioner
(Governor Message 349)**

To: Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice-chair
Members: Senator Robert Bunda, Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Sam Slom

From: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

I am testifying in opposition to the appointment of Stanley T. Koki to be a member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. My strong opposition to Mr. Koki is based on my work as chair of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission for the first 8 years of the Commission. Both my university career, community service and personal convictions about justice and equity leads me to write this letter respectfully urging you to reject Mr. Koki's appointment to this commission.

Section 368-2 states in pertinent part: "The members appointed to the commission shall be selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and on the basis of a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of the civil rights of all individuals." [Underlining added.] Mr. Stanley T. Koki fails to meet the requirements in Section 368-2. He lacks knowledge and experience in civil rights matters, he has not demonstrated a commitment to the preservation of civil rights of all individuals and has stated that the state should limit or deny civil rights based on sexual orientation.

If Governor Lingle wishes to use the services of Mr. Koki as a member of a state commission or board, I urge the Governor to submit his name for another commission but not the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. Appointing Mr. Koki to this commission is a travesty. Mr. Koki does not support the civil rights of all protected groups covered by the Commission. The Commission was established by the legislature to implement state policy protecting individuals against discrimination and commissioners should support the objectives of the Commission.

I strongly oppose the appointment of Stanley T. Koki as Civil Rights Commissioner. Please vote against Mr. Koki's nomination. There are other citizens who should be nominated. Our state deserves another nominee to be a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission who is qualified and committed to civil rights.

From: Julie Mitchell [julesmitch@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 8:05 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Measure Number: GM 349

LATE

I am writing in strong opposition to the confirmation of Stan Koki for another term as HCRC Commissioner. I oppose his confirmation for two reasons:

Mr. Koki opposed HCRC submitting testimony in favor of the civil unions bill, HB 444. He also opposed Hawaii House Resolution No. 7 requesting the US Congress to establish a non-discrimination policy based upon sexual orientation for members of the US armed forces.

Mr. Koki obviously puts his personal religious views ahead of state civil rights. In so doing, he is contradicting existing state laws and decisions to protect people based upon sexual orientation. His proven bias makes him unable to fulfill his duties to uphold the very important mission of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,
Julie Mitchell
PO Box 139
Kurtistown HI 96760

From: kehau kea [kkea@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 5:42 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: RE:biil 444

LATE

Measure Number: GM 349 (Koki)

The Jews were denied their civil rights and ultimately murdered because of bias and prejudice. Do you not understand that this is a civil issue and not a religious one. God created all of us as equals, yet you would deny these rights to Gays just because of your personal beliefs. Don't you understand Gay rights are supported by the United States Constitution, that all men and women are created equal. Please do the right thing and allow civil unions.

Alexander The Great was gay and lead one of the greatest armies the world has ever seen. Leonardo Di Vinci and Michaelangelo were both gay and created some of the world's greatest religious art. Would you have prevented them from expressing their love for God?

Mahalo for your time, Kehu Kea