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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:44 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** steve.onken@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM355 on 3/17/2009 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for JGO 3/17/2009 9:30:00 AM GM355

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](mailto: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. Mark Valencia 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.

**LATE**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 355**

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR, DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, VICE  
CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ron Boyer and I support the reappointment of Mark G. Valencia to the Civil Rights Commission.

Having known Mr. Valencia on both a professional and personal basis, it is without hesitation that I give him my highest recommendation for confirmation as a member of the Civil Rights Commission. Quality, confidence, and sincerity are among Mr. Valencia's hallmarks.

Mark has the character, intelligence, and integrity that make him a man you would want at your side whether it be in court representing you as a client, in a foxhole during combat, or helping teach your kids valuable life lessons. He's the kind of person you would want to hear a case you were involved in – regardless of the side you were on – because you could trust him to make a fair and wise decision on the merits, not the emotions.

Because of his reputation for fairness and integrity, and his proven ability to help bring disputes to equitable conclusions, Mark has long been sought out by parties as a mediator.

It is indeed a pleasure to know Mark Valencia. His energy and enthusiasm have been encouraging both to me and to others. I have no doubt that he will continue to bring his many outstanding talents and attributes to the Civil Rights Commission and will continue his valuable service to that institution and, by extension, to all the people of Hawaii.

I urge this honorable Committee's unanimous confirmation of Mr. Mark G. Valencia to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
  
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH  
DIRECTOR  
  
RONALD BOYER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
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**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 355**

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR, DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lawrence Reifurth, and I am the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 355, regarding the reappointment of Mark G. Valencia to the Civil Rights Commission ("Commission"). I support Mr. Valencia's appointment and respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Commission.

I first had the pleasure of working with Mr. Valencia when he was the Policy Analyst in the Governor's office who was assigned to the Department. I found Mr. Valencia to be intelligent, responsible, and willing to go the "extra mile" to assist the Department. Mr. Valencia displayed initiative and a great desire to give back to the

community. As an example of Mr. Valencia dedication and desire to serve the community, he is seeking to be reappointed to the Commission.

Based on my working relationship with Mr. Valencia, I believe that he possesses the qualifications, background, and experience that are needed to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Commission.

I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Valencia will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the Commission. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Mr. Valencia's appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Mr. Valencia's behalf.

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**From:** Julie Mitchell [julesmitch@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 8:06 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Measure Number: GM 355

**LATE**

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

Mr. Valencia 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. Valencia 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

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**From:** kehau kea [kkea@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 5:41 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** RE: Measure Number: GM 355 (Valencia)

**LATE**

Measure Number: GM 355 (Valencia)

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