

**PFLAG-OAHU (Parents, Families and Friends of
Lesbians, Gays, Transgendered, Bisexuals,
Transgendered & Questioning)**



LATE TESTIMONY

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 (808) 672-9050
golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com www.pflagoahu.org

ATTN: House Judiciary Committee

HEARING DATE: February 8, 2011
HEARING TIME: 2:15 p.m.
PLACE: Auditorium

IN OPPOSITION TO HB1244 - RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Dear Chair Keith Agaran and members of the Judiciary Committee:

PLACE: Auditorium

IN OPPOSITION TO HB1244 - RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION

Dear Chair Keith Agaran and members of the Judiciary Committee:

PFLAG-Oahu opposes the passage of HB1244. This bill is unnecessary.

HB1244 seeks to codify that no church or charitable organization operated by a church be required to perform same-sex ceremonies. It is time that Hawaii stops bowing to the radical Christian churches that pay no taxes but continue to dictate state treatment of all citizens whether they believe in the churches rules or not. We live in a country governed by Separation of State and Church. Healthy spiritual guidance promotes social justice for all, not denying others social justice.

There is nothing in the law that requires any individual or any institution to perform these ceremonies, just as there is nothing in the law that requires any individual or any institution to perform marriages. Civil Unions are not marriage as they don't carry Federal coverage.

Currently the parties to a marriage ceremony voluntarily agree to enter into a contract. This will also be true for any same-sex ceremony.

There is no reason to codify that this contractual relationship is voluntary and not mandated by law.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
President

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

LATE TESTIMONY

KAT BRADY
76 NORTH KING STREET #203
HONOLULU, HI 96837
katbrady@hotmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Room 325

2:15 p.m.

HB 1244 – Solemnization – Comments

SB 232 SD1 – Civil Unions - STRONG SUPPORT with suggestions

JUDTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am Kat Brady, testifying today as a proud Citizen for Equal Rights.

HB 1244 – Solemnization

COMMENTS: Religious institutions already have the right to refuse to solemnize and do not solemnize some unions. Section - 4 (c) of SB 232 SD1 clarifies that there is no requirement for anyone authorized to perform solemnizations.

SB 232 SD1 – Civil Unions

STRONG SUPPORT with suggestions:

Chair Keith-Agaran, mahalo for hearing this important rights bill. It is decisions like this that define a legislature. They become reference points in history. Landmark bills that define a culture...a community. They call out to the best in each of us to rise above our personal interests and they force us to think about the greater good – to think way beyond ourselves sometimes.

I am proud that Hawai'i has always been a bright spot in the world as a welcoming and tolerant place where the content of one's character is valued. Hawai'i's constitution enshrines these values in our privacy and equal protection clauses.

That's why we are here today. This is about granting each citizen of Hawai'i equal protection under the law – the way the framers of Hawai'i's Constitution envisioned it.

Rights have never been gained or enhanced by popular vote. The framers of the constitution knew that...and they specifically protected against that.

It is a fact that communities evolve. We see examples across the globe of what happens when people work together. We see how their communities evolve with the times and with their physical, social and economic environments.

Legalizing civil unions is the current evolution of our community. Civil unions recognize families that already exist, and have always existed, in Hawai'i nei. Civil unions make families equal. Creating a civil unions law ensures that all Hawai'i families will now possess the same rights and responsibilities. That's equality. That's fairness. That's what the framers of our constitution meant.

Strong families build strong communities. Strong communities tend to be safe communities because everyone looks out for everyone else. That is why the word commUNITY – ends with UNITY. Because we care for and about each other. We are a commUNITY. We are Hawai'i

I know that as policymakers you want to develop the best public policies possible, and in that spirit I humbly ask that the committee consider some of the provisions that are contained in HB 1623 including, but not limited to amendments to Chapter 584 regarding a child or children of parents in a civil union and amendments needed regarding taxes in Chapters 231, 235, and 236 (D).

Again, I commend the committee for hearing these bills and for being part of a moment in history that will be celebrated for generations to come. A moment when Hawai'i upheld the rights enshrined in our constitution and marched our state forward. You are poised on the brink of history, a chance one rarely gets - to cast a landmark vote that will be remembered forevermore.

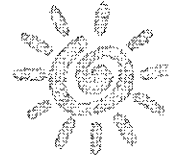
I urge passage of SB 232 SD1 with, perhaps, an HD1 containing amendments to strengthen this important social policy.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify.

*The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain
Until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common
life.*

Jane Addams

LATE TESTIMONY



LIFE OF THE LAND

76 North King Street, Suite 203

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Phone: 533-3454; henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 2011

TIME: 2:15 PM

PLACE: Auditorium

HB 1244 RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION
SB 232, SD1 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

**SUPPORT
SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee

My name is Henry Curtis and I am the Executive Director of Life of the Land, Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for almost four decades. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Hawai'i's history is one of overcoming inequalities, the Japanese interment, suppression of the Hawaiian language, women as second class citizens, etc.

SB 232 SD1 represents a very important milestone on Hawai'i's road of enacting laws supporting the aloha spirit and tolerance of diversity. A society is stronger when it is diverse, when there is respect and tolerance of diversity.

SB 232 SD1 supports the continued trend towards diverse family structures. The key to childhood development is love, and strong families can nurture the next generation.

A survey done by QMark in Nov 2007 showed that the majority of Hawaii residents agreed with the following statements:

"Committed couples and their families, regardless of their sexual preference or orientation, should have the same rights. That's the bottom line-we should treat people equally." (Yes: 73%)

"Giving rights to same-sex partners in the form of civil unions or domestic partnerships." (Yes: 56%)

HB 1244 reaffirms a religious exemption. Those with religious objections may choose not to perform civil unions.

I urge passage of SB 232 SD1 with, perhaps, an HD1 containing amendments to strengthen this important social policy.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify.

Please support these bills

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

LATE TESTIMONY

98-458 Hoomailani Street
Pearl City, HI 96782
808 456-8198

February 8, 2011

Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Please support SB 1244 relating to solemnization. Hawaii voters have amended the State Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Religious institutions or organizations, or any charities or organizations funded, operated, or controlled by them, should not be forced to solemnize same-sex relationships such as civil unions or same-sex marriage.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Sharon Toyomura

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strongly support HB 1244 - Measure Title: Relating to Solemnization

Patrick Rorie [prorie@k12.hi.us]

Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 12:33 PM

To: JUDtestimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

Preserve our autonomy and Freedoms. Let "tolerance" be across the board.

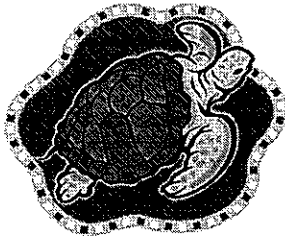
As a long time citizen of the State of Hawaii, I am very concerned that the preservation of the autonomy of the local church be preserved. Proponents of HB 444 and now SB 232 have assured that if this legislation passes they will protect those who officiate from being required to perform such ceremonies. I believe HB 1244 addresses this. If so, I would like to state my strong support of this bill. If "freedoms" are in fact the core of these bills lets us please respect the freedoms to agree to disagree.

Thank you.

With Aloha and Much Respect,

Patrick Rorie

Msg sent via Atmail - <http://atmail.com/>



FRANCINE MAE AONA KENYON

*dba Kuli Ike Kokua
2520 Jasmine Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
archerygal001@gmail.com*

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

At 2:15 pm

Conference Room Auditorium

HOUSE BILL NO. 1244

RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION

Aloha, my name is Francine Mae Aona Kenyon. I am single and divorced, happy mother of two sons and six grandchildren living in the East Coast. I am also an ordained deacon of the United Methodist Church and was the second deaf pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Baltimore, Maryland. Some of the deaf church members had sexual orientation and disabilities but they and I believe in traditional marriages between man and woman, according to the story of Genesis.

I am testifying in support of House Bill No. 1244 that allows for the refusal of services or accommodations related to the solemnization of same-sex marriages, civil unions, and other same-sex unions on religious grounds. Religious grounds should be kept holy for the traditional marriages, NOT same-sex marriages, only.

Again, I recommend that House Bill No. 1244 be passed to protect any religious organizations from being sued for any reasons by same-sex partners.

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to testify on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Francine Mae Aona Kenyon

Proud Deaf Mother of Two and Proud Deaf Grandmother of Six

Attention: House Judiciary Committee

Hearing: Tuesday, February 08, 2011

Conference Room: Capitol Auditorium

LATE TESTIMONY

Subject: **HB 1244**

Submitted by: Lynette Tanaka, Mililani, HI

Chairman Josh Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members:

If we are supporting a measure based on sexual orientation, then I believe it is important that we allow individuals this right who deal with their sexuality responsibly and conscientiously and that we devise a system whereby we assess the individuals based on certain criteria such as their citizenship, residency, income stability, with no record of criminal or psychiatric history, etc. so we do not attract more dysfunctional, noncontributing members in our society.

As a whole, I do not support this bill as we have many social issues that we have not resolved as a community. We have not resolved the homelessness population which has grown tremendously throughout the years. We have not resolved the problem that we have the highest rates of suicide among teens. We have not resolved the fact that we have overcrowding at our State mental hospital that the mentally ill are being discharged by our hospitals to the streets without followup. We have not addressed the fact that the babyboomers will be our aged in the near future which will place an added burden on the caregivers and our social services. We have not addressed the fact that we have many uninsured and underinsured individuals under our Medicaid, Quest programs which will be cut in the coming years.

We already know that our weather attracts many to our islands, including many in the homeless population. With the recent torrential snowstorm in the states, we can expect our warm weather to attract more to our islands. And with this introduction of the civil unions bill, we can be certain to attract even more people to our beloved state. Can we realistically support all these new individuals into our islands when we have not sustained our own? As Legislators, please think seriously about the consequences of your decisions on the rest of the people of Hawaii.

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1244

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JEAN LEONG
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: alahoku@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Thank you for representing Hawaii's people which includes my husband and me. Please oppose HB 1244. A vote for civil unions in Hawaii will be followed with their demand for same-sex "marriage" as witnessed in the other states. Respect the voice of Hawaii's people, the people who elected you, the people who put their trust in you with their vote, the people who already made it clear that marriage is between one man and one woman. Man and woman were created different. We all know this. If this isn't about undermining marriage, why would the language of the marriage law be used to create civil unions? Please not be persuaded by the foremost activists pursuing civil unions nationwide. Please listen to the spoken voice, the cast vote, of your State of Hawaii constituents. Do our vote not mean anything? Can you not stand up for our voices? We trusted you with our vote but you let this issue be introduced over and over. Please oppose HB 1244. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

DATE: TUESDAY, February 08, 2011

TIME: 2:41 p.m.

PLACE: Capitol Auditorium
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

LATE TESTIMONY

RE: **OPPOSE HB 1244**
(Relating to RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION)

FROM: Lisa A. L. Shorba, M.A.

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I testify in **OPPOSITION TO HB1244**. Although I agree with the intent of the bill which "*Allows for the refusal of services or accommodations related to the solemnization of same-sex marriages, civil unions, and other same-sex unions on religious grounds,*" I do not agree with the solemnization of same-sex relationships, as this is reserved only for couples of the opposite sex (male and female).

I especially oppose the changes HB 1244 attempts to make to the language in Section 572-1.6 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Hawaii's marriage law); HB1244 changes the wording in 572.1-6 from "private solemnization not unlawful," to "private solemnization of same-sex relationships not unlawful."

This is a very devious attempt to revise a section of Hawaii's marriage law to include same-sex relationships. Marriage, as it has always been, as it stands today, and as it always will be, according to the people of Hawaii and as recorded in the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 572, is a marriage contract, which shall be only between one man and one woman. To add language which includes same-sex relationships in this chapter pertaining to marriage is devious, unethical and a disservice to the people of Hawaii who have made it clear that marriage is to remain between one man and one woman.

Please DO NOT PASS HB 1244.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. L. Shorba, M.A