

JUDtestimony

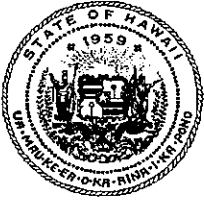
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 6:19 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: HB 1453 HCRC test House JUD 2-8-11.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: William Hoshijo
Organization: Hawai`i Civil Rights Commission
Address: 830 Punchbowl St., Rm. 411 Honolulu, Hawai`i
Phone: 586-8636
E-mail: William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

If there is any problem or question regarding this testimony, please contact Bill Hoshijo at the email address above.



HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 ·PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 8, 2011
State Capitol Auditorium
2:15 p.m.

To: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Coral Wong Pietsch, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 1453

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that "no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of race, religion, sex or ancestry". Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 1453 which establishes the statutory legal relationship of "civil union," conferring on those who enter into a civil union the statutory rights, benefits, and obligations attached to those who enter a marriage, and would prohibit employment discrimination based on civil union status. The proposed legislation will have profound, but not exclusive, impact on same-sex couples who are not allowed to marry under Hawai'i law.

Background

To our credit and consternation, Hawai'i is the first state to have seriously considered the issue of same-sex marriage, and more specifically, the denial of rights to same-sex couples that are recognized by law for married couples.

In *Baehr v. Lewin*, 74 Hawai‘i 530 (1993), the Hawai‘i Supreme Court held that denial of the benefits accorded to married couples to same-sex couples, who could not obtain a license to marry, was sex-based discrimination in violation of constitutional guarantee of equal protection, absent the showing of a compelling state interest.

In reaction to the *Baehr* decision, the legislature enacted Act 217, Session Laws of 1994, which redefined marriage as being between a man and a woman. By Act 5, Session Laws of 1995, the legislature established the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law (Commission). The Commission was charged, in large part, with examining major legal and economic benefits extended to married opposite-sex couples but not to same-sex couples. On December 8, 1995, the Commission submitted its report to the legislature, identifying four hundred Hawai‘i laws that bestow intangible, substantive, or general benefits on persons who are married, all of which are denied to same-sex couples who are statutorily barred from marriage.

In 1998, the State Constitution was amended to expressly empower the legislature to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples. Art. I, Sec. 23.

HCRC support for H.B. No. 1453

H.B. No. 1453 establishes the legal relationship of “civil union” and amends several state laws to provide couples in civil unions the same rights, benefits and obligations conferred on married couples, by adding references to “civil unions” to all references to “marriage” in the H.R.S.

While the legislature and the people of Hawai‘i have acted to define marriage as being between a man and a woman, there remains a litany of rights and benefits identified by the 1995 Commission which are denied to same-sex couples. If not addressed legislatively, each of these can, and likely will be, the subject of litigation, each representing a precious right for an unpopular minority.

More importantly, the state has a fundamental interest in civil rights, non-discrimination, and equality. Article I, Section 5 of the State Constitution mandates that “no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of their race, religion, sex, or ancestry.” Consistent with

this historical commitment, Hawai'i has expanded its civil rights laws to protect against many forms of invidious discrimination.

The legislature captured the spirit of this law and policy in the HCRC's enabling statute, stating:

The legislature finds and declares that the practice of discrimination because of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or disability in employment, housing, public accommodations, or access to services receiving state financial assistance is against public policy. HRS §368-1.

The legislature has extended protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to the fair employment, housing, and public accommodations civil rights laws that the HCRC enforces. Enactment of H.B. 1453 would specifically extend current protections against marital status discrimination to include civil union status by amending H.R.S. §§378-1 and 378-2 to add civil union status. The HCRC supports the establishment of the statutory legal relationship of civil union, and the application of statutory references to marital status equally to civil union status.

Conclusion

The HCRC supports both S.B. No. 232, S.D.1, and H.B. No. 1453 and urges your favorable consideration of one of these measures.

JUDtestimony

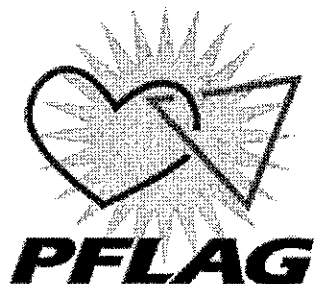
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 12:49 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: gomama808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: HB1453 Opposition.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
Organization: PFLAG-Oahu
Address: 92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71 Kapolei, HI
Phone: 779-9078
E-mail: gomama808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

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



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 (808) 672-6050
golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com www.pflagoahu.org

TO: House Judiciary Committee

HEARING DATE: February 8, 2011

HEARING TIME: 2:15 p.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

IN OPPOSITION TO HB1453 - RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Dear Chair Keith Agaran and members of the Judiciary Committee:

PFLAG-Oahu opposes the passage of HB1453.

HB1453, a 402-page bill, that tries to catch all the references to family, immediate family, spouse, husband, wife, widow, widower, children, marriage found in the Hawaii Revised Statutes is a farce. PFLAG-Oahu has been testifying for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender children since 1996 and in all these years, not one bill has wasted so much space. It is my opinion that this is a sham and a waste of your time and ours.

For this bill to be honestly working for social justice, please kill the bill and let's get serious with Civil Unions as written in SB232, SD1. The SB232, SD1 that while not a bill of true social justice is at least the best our state can offer until the US Federal laws recognize that all citizens deserve social justice.

There are no redeeming factors in this bill. Let's get on with justice for all and discuss SB232, SD1.

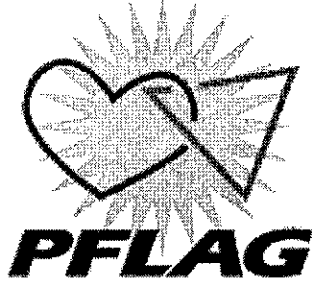
Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
President

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

From: Carolyn Golojuch [mailto:gomama808@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 1:01 AM
To: Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Karl Rhoads
Subject: Oppose HB1453 Civil Unions

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



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 (808) 672-6050
golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com www.pflagoahu.org

TO: House Judiciary Committee

HEARING DATE: February 8, 2011

HEARING TIME: 2:15 p.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

IN OPPOSITION TO HB1453 - RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Dear Chair Keith Agaran and members of the Judiciary Committee:

PFLAG-Oahu opposes the passage of HB1453.

HB1453, a 402-page bill, that tries to catch all the references to family, immediate family, spouse, husband, wife, widow, widower, children, marriage found in the Hawaii Revised Statutes is a farce. PFLAG-Oahu has been testifying for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender children since 1996 and in all these years, not one bill has wasted so much space. It is my opinion that this is a sham and a waste of your time and ours.

For this bill to be honestly working for social justice, please kill the bill and let's get serious with Civil Unions as written in SB232, SD1. The SB232, SD1 that while not a bill of true social justice is at least the best our state can offer until the US Federal laws recognize that all citizens deserve social justice.

There are no redeeming factors in this bill. Let's get on with justice for all and discuss SB232, SD1.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
President

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:26 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: fracturedpolitics@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: testimony-HB1453.docx

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kris Coffield
Organization: Individual
Address: 46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, Hawaii
Phone: 8086797454
E-mail: fracturedpolitics@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · www.fracturedpolitics.com · Kris Coffield, Editorial Director

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1453, RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

**House Committee on Judiciary
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2011, 2:15 PM
State Capitol, Auditorium**

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, editorial director of Fracturedpolitics, an emergent political action network. Currently, the network boasts over 50 local members, though I offer this testimony only on behalf of myself, in opposition to HB 1453.

While I support the legalization of civil unions, HB 1453 is not the right measure for codifying this practice into law. In limiting civil unions to same-sex couples, this bill forces the legislature to relitigate all points of concern related to the issue. As you know, lawmakers extended civil unions to all couples, regardless of sexual orientation, in an effort to be non-discriminatory. Moreover, as noted during the recent debate over civil unions in Illinois, same-sex couples are not the only potential beneficiaries of civil unions. Seniors with survivor's benefits from Social Security or a pension, for example, could lose such income if they remarry, but would keep those benefits upon entering into a civil union. People who find marriage to be an antiquated and patriarchal institution are also given a second option when offered non-discriminatory civil unions, which, again, this measure fails to enact.

Whether or not HB 1453 is politically calculated, stemming from animosity engendered during the well-publicized House leadership struggle, it is not the right bill for bringing civil unions to our island home. A better vehicle for implementing civil unions is SB 232, SD 1, also being heard, today, by the committee. I encourage committee members to pass SB 232, SD 1, which has the support of both GLBT advocates and legal experts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Editorial Director
Fracturedpolitics

JUDtestimony

From: Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:02 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1453 Civil Unions comments
Attachments: HB1453 BIG BOOK Civil Unions Jan 2011; ATT00001..htm

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee Members

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 2011
HEARING TIME: 2:15 PM
PLACE: Auditorium

COMMENTS ON HB 1453 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee Members

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 2011
HEARING TIME: 2:15 PM
PLACE: Auditorium

COMMENTS ON HB 1453 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Aloha, Members, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and committee members,

We urge you to hold this measure in favor of SB 232 SD1. While we laud the intent of this bill – (we assume) to clarify implementation, the Senate Bill with amendments is the one we prefer.

Regards,

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair Women's Coalition
Mililani, Hawai'i
808-623-5676

JUDtestimony

From: Integrity Hawaii [integrityhi@ymail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:38 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: In Favor of Civil Unions
Attachments: CivilUnion 110207.pdf

Attached please find our letter in favor of the Civil Union bills being considered by the House.

INTEGRITY HAWAII

February 7, 2011

House Judiciary Committee
(SB 232 SD 1, HB 1453, HB 1623)
Civil Union Legislation Hearing
Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Subject: IN FAVOR OF CIVIL UNIONS

Dear House Committee,

Integrity is the organization for full inclusion of LGBT people in the Episcopal Church, one of the oldest and best known Christian denominations in the United States. We are writing *in favor* of the bills for the establishment of Civil Unions in Hawai'i. We know there are a number of them, we would not presume to tell you which is best for Hawaii, but we deeply believe the time has come to move forward on this matter.

Last year the State Legislature spent much time soul-searching and deliberating, with a clear majority of both houses coming to the conclusion that a bill addressing Civil Unions should be passed. You as a body voted in favor of a bill in spite of its being an election year, and in the face of vociferous opposition from some segments of the population. We applaud that courageous action, and we hope you will see fit to do so again this session.

Our former Governor, while stating that a solitary individual should not make such an important decision, did exactly that. She contravened the will of the legislature when she alone negated months of deliberation and study by a well informed body and singlehandedly condemned your bill.

The concept of minority rights is deeply embedded in the foundation of our laws and our psyche. This is especially true in Hawai'i where we have no ethnic majority, where people of many cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs have long worked and lived side by side and even intermingled, a concept that was abhorrent and in some cases illegal in large sections of the mainland. Those Jim Crow laws were eventually overturned in state after state. The 2008 election of our President, a person of mixed ancestry born and largely raised in Hawaii, proves how unjust such institutionalized discrimination was.

The people of Hawai'i have always known that *ohana* comes in many guises. We understand that diversity and acceptance creates strength. A broad definition of family has long been an essential part of our culture. It is time to honor our history of embracing a spectrum of human relationships.

We deeply appreciate the time and energy you have devoted to this fundamental issue, our future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Botsai

Donald R. Botsai
Convener, Integrity HI

Keola Akana

Keola Akana
Secretary, Integrity HI

David Jackson

Fr. David Jackson
Member Integrity HI

JUDtestimony

From: Susie [hi2mom@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 7:16 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Correction: In Favor of HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | In Favor of SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Sorry,
This last email from me was mistakenly sent from my ipad. I am emailing you again to send the correction.
I am IN FAVOR of HB1453 and IN Favor of SB 232 SD1
thank you,
Susie Roth

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Roth <hi2mom@aol.com>
To: JUDtestimony <JUDtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Wed, Feb 2, 2011 1:48 pm
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Sent from my iPad

JUDtestimony

From: Mmoorelvi75@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:14 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232

Aloha,

I oppose these 2 bills. Although I do believe in equal rights for all, this, however, is not what the Lord intended when He created man and woman. Equality does not mean going against God. I have at least 10 family members who are lesbian or gay, my only sister being one of them yet even she understands this is not of God. If our state allows this, then our state will have to answer to the Lord. Please do not pass this bill.

I pray you will all make the moral choice.

Mahalo
Samlynn N Moore

JUDtestimony

From: Lillian Chang [lchang@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:57 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

To the House Judiciary Committee Members:

Subject: SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453

We would like to go on record as opposing these two Civil Union Bills scheduled for hearing. For the sake of our families and especially for our children and the future of Hawaii, we oppose these bills. This "Civil Union" line of thinking is unhealthy for our community, our State and for our nation as it was founded. It is also against the natural laws of pro-creation.

Please, we request that all members oppose this bill.

With much Aloha,
Frank and Lillian Chang

JUDtestimony

From: Rina Cheung [rina@cheung.com] on behalf of greetings@cheung.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:27 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

I oppose SB 232 and SB 1453. Mahalo and Aloha!

JUDtestimony

From: Peiler, Nettie [NETTIE@rcchawaii.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:57 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Redefining matrimonial laws already defined by God naturally, is leading to extreme mayhem and imposing confusion on our future generation.

H.B. No. 1244 and S.B. No. 232 S.D. 1 must be vetoed.

We cannot allow civil union/same-sex marriage, in Hawaii.

This civil union bill is infringing on my rights given to me by God naturally and on my moral values that a union between one man and one woman creates another human being becoming one family unit.

I urge all of you judiciary members, to veto civil union/same-sex marriages in Hawaii.

Nettie Lou Peiler
(Democrat voter) – Kaneohe District

JUDtestimony

From: Stan Zitnik [imuwawp@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:16 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 Relating to Legal Relationships & OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 Relating to Civil Unions

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1453 and Senate Bill 232 SD1. These two bills will lead to the legalization of homosexual marriage in Hawaii and I am opposed to this idea. Please do not allow Hawaii to follow the path of other states that have passed similar bills only to later pass additional laws that legalized homosexual marriage. The majority of Hawaii citizens and elected officials still recognize and support marriage as a union between one man and one woman and any legislation that chips away at this bedrock foundation of our society will eventually lead to it's moral down fall. This is not a civil rights issue, tolerance issue or aloha, it is a morale issue of what is right and what is wrong. As a citizen I am expressing my opposition to these bills and my support for traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

Please vote not on these two bills and thank you for you thorough consideration of this important matter.

Stan

Stan Zitnik
Wailuku, Maui
385-1405
szitnik@hawaiiantel.net

 please consider the environment before printing this email and any attachments

DISCLAIMER:

The information transmitted (including attachments, if any) is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and is privileged and confidential material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

JUDtestimony

From: Earl Higa [calvarych157earlh@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:18 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

I oppose HB 1453 and SB 232 SD1. And please do the right thing by letting the People Of Hawaii decide what should be a law in our state by putting this topic on the voting ballot.

Earl

JUDtestimony

From: Delsa Moe [kekamoe@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:29 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Aloha,

I ask that you please oppose both of the above bills related to promoting homosexual relationships in Hawaii. This matter should be put before the people of the State of Hawaii to vote on rather than decided by a few lawmakers. Every time a civil union bill has been imposed on a state, demands for same-sex marriage have followed and Hawaii has already voted decisively against it. You can't talk about civil unions without talking about same-sex marriage because there really isn't any difference. It's the same thing and a majority of the people in Hawaii are opposed to it.

Those pushing for civil unions will do anything to make sure the people don't know the real goal is for same-sex marriage in Hawaii. If this isn't undermining and redefining marriage, why would the language of the marriage law be used to create civil unions? It's not right.

Delsa Moe

Laie, HI
808-293-5901

JUDtestimony

From: Richard [richard.koob@kalani.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 3:02 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: opposed to 1244 and HB1453. Hearing February 8, 2011 at 2:15pm

Richard Koob
Founder/Director, KALANI Oceanside Retreat Village

The Committee on Judiciary
February 8, 2011 at 2:15pm
RE: Bill numbers: **1244, HB1453, SB232 (SD1).**

I strongly support SB232 (SD1)

I am opposed to 1244, HB1453

Aloha Legislators,

Here at Kalani Oceanside Retreat Village, everyone I know of our 100 residents, 500 coastal residents, 17,000 members, 30,000 annual visitors, and 7 million annual web viewers, is supportive of Hawai'i joining other socially responsible and equal rights focused countries, like Canada, and States like Vermont, Iowa and Massachusetts, in supporting marriage and/or civil unions for same-gender couples.

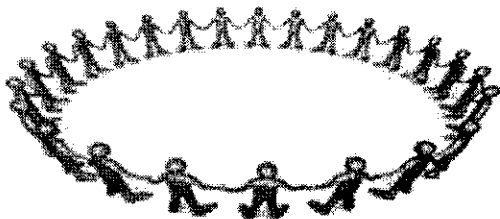
Hence, I personally request that you please support SB232(SD1).

You support honors the growing demographic of socially responsible residents and travelers interested in improving their lives through authentic Hawai'i nature-culture-wellness experiences. They are creating today's emerging global village through supporting and honoring Hawai'i as a model eco-sustainability destination and civil-rights supportive host culture. This demographic increasingly contributes to Hawai'i goals for greater ecology, humanism, and heritage awareness among residents as well as visitors, whose expenditures continue to grow as both residents and travelers look for experiences that provide in-depth cultural immersion.

Respectful of Hawai'i heritage and honoring Hawaii's rainbow diversity and multi-ethnic cultures, the passage of SB232(SD1) helps both residents and visitors be increasingly supportive of authentic Hawai'i, often volunteering as well as financially supporting the Hawai'i economy. [For example, Kalani's educational programs generate an annual \$5 million boost to the local economy].

Thank you for supporting SB232(SD1).

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Gandhi



Richard

Richard Koob

Founder/Director, KALANI Oceanside Retreat Village

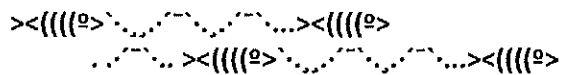
Skype Name: **richardkoob** 808-965-0468 X104

12-6860 Kalapana-Kapoho Beach Road, Pahoa, HI 96778

KALANI Reservations 800-800-6886 www.KALANI.com

Hawaii-Nature-Culture-Wellness education since 1975:

Our mission, heritage, lives, and future



"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Gandhi

JUDtestimony

From: Rojo Herrera [rojo.herrera@comconusa.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:27 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Sir/Ma'am,

We are a "blended" family and in many ways, a very non-traditional family. We have 10 children; "yours, mine, ours and whose (i.e., four adopted)". They are from a variety of nationalities with a dynamic mix of young and old brothers and sisters. We are very proud of them—military members, health care provider, school teacher, college students and four under the age of 13.

Recently we were given the green light to adopt #11—a 2 year old girl whose parents are caught up in drug addiction. We continue to do our best to provide a loving home grounded on the truth that God created us all to be distinct individuals. However, He made us male and female and set the union of male and female as the basic building block of the human race. These bills attempt to undermine this fact and are detrimental to our state and our country.

Yes, we are a very diverse family, but we agree on the subject of civil unions: We are firmly opposed to both HB 1453 and SB 232.

Please do not pass this legislation.

Sincerely,
Rojo

Rojelio Herrera
94-368 Hakamoa St
Mililani, HI 96789

JUDtestimony

From: Joel Weaver [weaver.joel@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:10 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453

Dear members of the House Judiciary Committee--

I understand that SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453 regarding the establishment of Civil Unions are going to be heard in the Judiciary Committee this coming Tuesday. I am writing you in strong opposition to these bills.

Yours is a solemn charge: serve the people's will. And the people's will has been explicitly stated on this issue when in 1998 a clear majority voted to retain the "one man-one woman" definition of marriage that has held for millennia.

This is not an issue of equality, as even those in favor of the bill will acknowledge that the legal rights purportedly denied them are already available to same-sex couples through Hawaii's reciprocal beneficiary law. No, be assured that the aim of this bill is to redefine marriage to include not only same-sex couples but also any other behavior-based group that desires civil approval of their lifestyle choice. Can those practicing currently unacceptable sex-based behavior such as pedophilia or bestiality be far behind in their demand for "equal rights" and for their right to "marry" the ones with whom they practice their preferred actions?

The legislative endorsement of sex-partner civil unions is one step from legislative endorsement of sex-partner marriage. Please do not shred the definition of marriage to include any people who practice sexually-based behavior who express their desire to call themselves "married". Under a smokescreen of "equality" and "tolerance", these bills would seriously undermine a foundational pillar of our society which is already under attack: traditional marriage.

Again, you have a solemn responsibility to serve your constituents and the generations to come in the decisions you make. Please vote NO on SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453, as they seek to establish a ruinous precedent in granting special legal protection and benefits based on sexual preferences and behaviors. Instead, in the truest sense of equality, we recommend expanding the current Reciprocal Beneficiaries provision as a more suitable, comprehensive option.

Thank you for your attention,

Joel Weaver
Manoa

JUDtestimony

From: david zuccolotto [rzuccolotto@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:49 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

The people of Hawaii deserve an honest debate.

The activists lobbying for civil unions in Hawaii really want same-sex "marriage" in Hawaii. We know it, they know it, and the people of Hawaii have a right to know it.

Hawaii's civil union bill is nearly identical to bills passed in California and Connecticut. Those led to courts ultimately imposing same-sex "marriage" on those states.

The foremost activists pursuing civil unions are being funded by a Colorado billionaire who has given millions to impose same-sex "marriage" nationwide.

Are we supposed to believe they don't want to force same-sex marriage on Hawaii? Please consider this when voting on the bill. Thank you David Zuccolotto

JUDtestimony

From: Kent Kitagawa [kkitagawa1@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:53 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Please Hear Us!

Honorable Representatives:

It seems that there is a concerted effort to push Civil Unions upon the people of Hawaii despite our rejection of this issue time and again. There already is a reciprocal beneficiary law which is TRULY open to all who require benefits accorded to traditional family units, and with very little expansion of benefits, would give all who truly need, to the rights and benefits this civil unions bill purports to be about. This is no civil rights issue; it is legislated acceptance of same-sex marriage. And three bills have been introduced! Has the legislature nothing more important to deal with, or are they only representing one minority segment of the population, to the exclusion of the wishes of the rest of their constituency? There is an alternative in place; why is it being ignored?! Why is the voice of the general population being ignored?! This kind of action by the legislature is why the general population of the state feel disenfranchised and lack motivation to participate in government.

Please hear the voice of the people and **oppose passage** of HB 1623, HB 1453, and SB 232! This is our home too, and we want to preserve all our families and their physical, spritual and emotional health for the generations to come!

Mahalo!

JUDtestimony

From: Chuck & Doni Antone [cdantone@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 3:01 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

To the Judiciary Committee,

Please know that we are in opposition to SB 232 SD1 as same-sex marriages/unions bring harm to the family. It is not normal and causes much heart ache to the children and others that might be affected by a same-sex marriage or union.

From the beginning of time marriages and civil unions have been between one man and one woman. This is changing around the world and not only does this have to do with same-sex unions, but also now in Canada people are wanting to legalize multiple people in one marriage or union. Where will this end? Animals and humans? Children and senior citizens? It can go on and on.....please do not support this bill and keep Hawaii forever a one man and one woman marriage or civil union.

Thank you very much,
Charles & Donna Antone
Kailua Kona, HI

JUDtestimony

From: David Monk [dbmonk49@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 4:04 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Amy Monk
Subject: Testimony on Civil Unions (SB232, HB1244, HB1453) for hearing Feb. 8, 2011, 2:15 pm

Re: SB232, HB1244, HB 1453 (Civil Unions), hearing on February 8, 2011, 2:15 p.m.

We have been married over thirty years and do not regard civil unions as a threat in any way to our marriage or to the institution of marriage. On the contrary, we view it as a just measure that will strengthen all families and enable all Hawaii's citizens to enjoy equal rights and privileges under the law. We urge its passage.

Amy and David Monk
7476 Keka'a St.
Honolulu, HI 96825
396-5959

JUDtestimony

From: Bobby [mcbobby@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 4:08 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB 1244 andHB 1453 JUD Auditorium Feb 8,2011, 215PM

Committee: JUD
Room: Auditorium
Hearing Date: 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

My name is Bobby McClintock and I **SUPPORT HB 1244 and HB 1453**- Civil Unions. This bill is not about religion but about children, equality, and decency. Religions have the right to define their beliefs to the people who follow them. But in this country we have been separatists from when this country was founded. People came here because they wanted religion separated from their governing bodies. This is basic history. Please let us not forget this.

The religions pushing for not passing this bill do NOT represent me or my Christian family. Please know there are far more out here who support this than do not. And, we will stand with you to help everyone have equality in our country.

B.A. McClintock, Honolulu, HI

JUDtestimony

From: Joeysmom [estherjoeysmom@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 4:17 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am hereby entering my testimony in opposition of HB 1453 and SB 232, SD1.

Again, the legislature is trying to legalize same-sex marriage by way of a civil union bill they hope will pass. Hawaii's civil union bill is nearly identical to bills passed in California and Connecticut. Those led to courts ultimately imposing same-sex "marriage" on those states. Please do your research to check out the facts.

Sincerely yours,

Esther Gefroh

--

[A Catholic Mom in Hawaii](#)

[Spiritual Moms Apostolate Blog](#)

[Prayers for Our Pets](#)

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit that my thoughts may all be holy;

Act in me O Holy Spirit that my works, too, may be holy;

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy;

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit to defend all that is holy;

Guard me then O Holy Spirit that I always may be holy.

JUDtestimony

From: tobosa2820@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 5:57 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Civil union , same gender couples, call it what you want- its not healthy to our way of life. and to change what has already been established to be fruitful and multiply, will only result in creating more "types" of lifestyles and ideals that will hurt our country or state in the long run. Say NO, Oppose, deny these bills and protect our way of life- one nation under God.

aloha- Paul

JUDtestimony

From: Jeff Gray [junglejlee@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 6:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453

Aloha! I would like to state my strong opposition to both SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453.

I oppose any state recognition of any sort of homosexual relationships. For obvious reasons, homosexuality is a sad, destructive perversion. I do support, however, mental health counseling for homosexuals who wish to leave this lifestyle.

Further, I don't understand how a law that only allows persons of the same sex special rights and privileges is not discriminatory on its face.

Thank you very much.

Aloha and God Bless,
Jeff Gray

JUDtestimony

From: Kimberly Tice [kimtice@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 7:19 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB 1244; HB 1453 and SB 232 on Feb 8 at 215pm

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a kama'aina who was born and raised on the windward side of O'ahu. I believe a civil unions bill is needed to preserve the integrity of our promise of aloha to all. Without a civil unions bill, we tell the world that in the land of aloha, some families are less equal than others. This is not a message that is consistent with Hawaiian culture or other local traditions of hospitality. I have numerous friends who are gay or lesbian, and it is entirely unfair for them to be treated as less than equals. They deserve the right to start loving, committed families. This is a right that the rest of us take for granted, because it really is a fundamental civil right that his unjustly being denied to a small minority. I urge you to do the right thing and please vote for civil unions on February 8 at 2:15pm when you consider HB1244, HB 1453 and SB 232. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Tice
PO Box 128
Kalaupapa, HI 96742
808-343-6329

JUDtestimony

From: Nolan Yogi [nyogi7@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:10 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships)/ OPPOSITION to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Honorable Committee Members:

My entire family and I are deeply opposed to House Bill 1453 and Senate Bill 232 SD1, which are clearly legislation intended to circumvent and even thwart the will of the majority of Hawaii's people. They have shown in poll after poll that they oppose Same Sex Marriage and its stepping stone the Civil Union legislation. If that was not the purpose of the bill's proponents, why use the language of the marriage laws for the Civil Union bill. This "backdoor" approach was used in California and Connecticut. In those states, based upon civil union laws, the courts, **not** the legislature, imposed same sex marriage upon the people.

Marriage between a man and a woman is an institution thousands of years old, the bedrock of a family and child rearing. The majority of the people **do not** want marriage to be redefined to suit the preferences or life style choices of a few. This is not a civil rights issue! There is no scientific evidence that sexual preferences are genetically based. Civil rights legislation arose simply because a man or woman cannot change their gender, skin color or race, and hence, should not be treated unfairly because of these attributes.

Please reject HB 1453 and SB 232 SD1

Very truly yours,

Nolan K. Yogi

JUDtestimony

From: Susie Kaohi [susie5310@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 7:22 AM
To: JUDtestimony

I am **STRONGLY AGAINST** the following three bills that will be heard on Feb. 8, 2011 in the Judiciary Committee.

The three bills are: HB 1244, HB1453, and SB 232 (SD1).

It is my opinion that marriage is with ONE man and One woman in GOD's eyes.

It is a SHAME that this state is so over run with Homosexual people that the STRAIGHT people are almost losing any say.

I have lived in and watched this state for 50 years. The morals of this state has gone down slowly but surely over the years. The mainland opinions about things have taken over with everything. Crime and Drugs are running wild..Instead of worrying about civil unions, We SHOULD be building more prisons, pay more money to our teachers, build..no, FIX our rundown schools, fix our pot holes in the roads (some that you can lose your car in..If you don't believe me..Drive to the end of the road in Kokee)..and hire more police. And probably the Most important one..is to get OUR state up and running as it was before this last 8 years.

Worry about the local people (they are moving out like rats) because of the economy of this state. All the politicians that we voted for said the first order of business was to FIX our state..instead the first order of business is to get these 3 bills passed..SHAME ..SHAME..put your ear to the ground and listen to the local people instead a few..This should go to the people instead of the poiticians.

Thank you..

Elizabeth S. Kaohi

P.O. Box 658

Hanapepe, Hi. 96705

JUDtestimony

From: curran7747@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 9:54 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

No law can trump God's law. God says homosexuality is a sin. You are either with Him or against Him.

God love you,

R Curran

JUDtestimony

From: hiangel [hiangelc2@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 10:10 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Aloha Representatives and Judiciary Committee,

I am writing this to you to let you know that I OPPOSE SAME SEX MARRIAGE AND HOUSE BILL 1453 AND SB 232 SD1. I AM OPPOSED TO CIVIL MARRIAGES. I have lived in Hawaii my whole life and I do not want to see this change our society in a huge way for the worse. I have voted on this issue many times before as all of us have and am quite disgusted by sneaky tactics of those who are trying to get same sex marriage passed no matter what. The social ramifications will be grave if same sex marriage becomes legal. You must do what is right representing the majority of the people of Hawaii. WE DO NOT WANT SAME SEX MARRIAGE IN ANY FORM!!!!!!

Mahalo,

A Camacho

JUDtestimony

From: carl johnson [cdj3333@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 10:15 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Bills---Testimony

I Carl Johnson oppose HB1244 and HB1453 and strongly support SB232(SD1).

ALOHAAAAA,

Carl

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:13 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Todd Hairgrove
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

JUDtestimony

From: tdjmlubong@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 11:22 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Aloha Honorable Senator's and Representatives,

Please vote against HB1453 and SB 232 SD1. My Ohana and I are in opposition. Please just enforce existing civil rights bill that are on the books or put on the ballot and let the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo For Listening,

Lubong Ohana,

Ted Lubong
Donna Lubong
Marissa Lubong
Janelle Lubong
Mercedes Lubong
Ruben Lubong
Jarín Lubong
Mereilyn Lubong

JUDtestimony

From: joel beck [beijiahe@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 2:59 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: testimony for Judiciary Committee re: SB232 and HB1453 on 2/8/11 at 2:15pm
Attachments: testimony.pdf

testimony for Judiciary Committee re: SB232 and HB1453 on 2/8/11 at 2:15pm

Joel Beck, Academic Director, Institute of Intensive English, Honolulu

Judiciary Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 2:15pm

Re: SB232
HB1453

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I would like to hereby submit my testimony in regard to the hearings for SB232 and HB1453 on February 8, 2011 at 2:15pm.

I am a 39-year-old single male who is an educator, resident of Kalihi, citizen and taxpayer.

It is my firm belief that in Hawaii the passage of a civil unions bill is necessary to preserve the integrity of our promise of aloha to all, especially our Ohana who happen to be gay. As long as Hawaii is without a civil unions bill, we communicate to the world that in the land of aloha, some families are less equal than others. This is not a message that is consistent with Hawaiian culture or other local traditions of hospitality. It certainly dishonors the spirit of aloha.

Please pass legislation in this legislative session to respect all citizens of our special state.

"E hau'oli e nā 'ōpio o Hawai'i nei

'Oli ē! 'Oli ē!

Mai nā aheahe makani e pā mai nei

Mau ke aloha, no Hawai'i"

Respectfully,

Joel Beck
1317 Palena Place
Honolulu, HI 96819

JUDtestimony

From: jim@jameshochberglaw.com
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:23 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** RE: Updated Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions) and Support of intent of HB 1244
Attachments: JH testimony 2-4-11 HB 1244 ,1453 & SB 232 SD1.pdf

Please accept this testimony on the referenced bills (in place of the earlier version) for the House Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 2:15 in the Auditorium. I plan to attend and testify in person. Please let me know if there are any specific requirements in that regard. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the governmental process at the legislature. I trust your committee members will give due attention to the public.

Jim

Note: The information contained in this message may be attorney-client privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.

James Hochberg, Attorney at Law
Suite 1201, Fort Street Tower
745 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

808-534-1514 / 808-538-3075

Jim@JamesHochbergLaw.com

A proud sponsor of Hawai'i Pacific University and its athletic program.

Telephone:
(808) 534-1514

Fax:
(808) 538-3075

JAMES HOCHBERG
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Bishop Street Tower, Suite 1201
745 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Digital Pager:
(808) 256-7382

Email Address:
Jim@JamesHochbergLaw.com

February 4, 2011

Transmitted via Email to www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Rep. Tom Brower	Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla	Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Robert N. Herkes	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Ken Ito	Rep. George R. Fontaine
Rep. Sylvia Luke	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey	Rep. Cynthia Thielen

Bill Numbers: HB 1244, 1453 and SB 232 SD 1 (SSCR 2)
Date and Time: **Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 2:15 pm**
Location: **State Capitol, Auditorium**

Committee: **Committee on the Judiciary**

I OPPOSE SB 232 SD1 AND HB 1453. I oppose both of these bills because a vote for civil unions under these two bills is a vote for same sex marriage in accord with the national litigation strategy of the ACLU and LAMBDA Legal Defense Fund.

I SUPPORT THE INTENT OF HB 1244 BUT SUGGEST AMENDMENTS.

THERE ARE SEVERAL RELATED BILLS THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE HEARING NOTICE WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED INCLUDING HB 164 & 165 PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING MARRIAGE AS WELL AS HB 1345 EXTENDING MARRIAGE BENEFITS TO RECIPROCAL BENEFICIARIES

HB 1244, 1453 and SB 232 SD 1 (SSCR 2)

February 4, 2011

Page 2

My name is Jim Hochberg. I am a civil rights attorney in private practice in Honolulu. In 1995, Governor Cayetano appointed me to the Governor's Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law. Prior to that I served as the volunteer president of the Rutherford Institute of Hawaii, a non profit legal and educational institution dedicated to enforcing constitutional religious freedoms in the courts, legislatures and in the public square. Since 1999 I have been an allied attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, continuing the efforts to enforce constitutional religious freedoms. I currently have such a case before the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission dealing with a complaint based on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the rental of a bedroom in my client's home.

Both SB 232 SD1 and HB 1453 seek to segregate out of the current members of our citizens that qualify for reciprocal beneficiary status, a new class of citizens with special rights to be granted by these bills. Currently, all those who cannot marry qualify for reciprocal beneficiaries status. These civil unions bills, however, elevate from the R.B. group certain members and endow them with greater rights than those left behind. If it is necessary in some sense of fairness to provide those benefits to some of the members of the reciprocal beneficiaries class, why is not necessary to extend the benefits to all the members of that class? How is it not fundamentally unfair to individuals related by blood to deny them the benefits being extended to some members of their group but not them too?

Hawaii currently provides for R.B. rights and benefits to those who together form the group that are not qualified to marry under Hawaii law. It is a domestic partnership law we have wisely named the Reciprocal Beneficiary law. It is discriminatory to split the citizens who qualify for that status into two groups, one of which is extended additional benefits and the other which is left out. Brothers and sisters biologically more closely resemble the matching of the opposite sex couples which occurs in marriage, than do same sex couples who are given the new status under these two bills. Why are parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren and aunts/uncles/nephews/nieces no longer worthy of the same protections under the laws that they have enjoyed since the 1990's? Do you really want to make a third class of citizens? I trust not. It is important to treat like citizens alike, in this case, those who can marry and those who cannot marry.

In addition, creating civil unions status for those covered by these two bills creates another problem in the State of Hawaii: namely, that setting up a marriage alternative creates another separate-but-equal legal problem which the civil unions proponents will be seeking to redress shortly after the ink dries on whatever civil unions bill comes out of this session, if you are unwise enough to pass one. You must recognize that across the country, for the

HB 1244, 1453 and SB 232 SD 1 (SSCR 2)

February 4, 2011

Page 3

past many years, the proponents of civil unions/domestic partnerships have convinced legislative bodies to enact the separate status for them under the guise of not wanting to change marriage, only to turn and bite the legislative hand that fed them by thereafter demanding same-sex marriage. As the Connecticut Supreme Court reasoned in the 2008 Kerrigan case, the term marriage itself is rich in tradition and meaning, and if a look-alike status under a different name is created, there is a constitutional violation if the same tradition and meaning is withheld. The ACLU and LAMBDA Legal Defense Fund have been pushing this legal strategy successfully in state after state. You, however, have the luxury of seeing that history and protecting the citizens of our state from a similar outcome. If you do not pass a law setting up an different relationship which is substantially marriage under a different name, you save the state from having to defend against the argument that the tradition and meaning of the name marriage cannot constitutionally be withheld. In addition, you do not segregate the other members of society that currently qualify for reciprocal beneficiary status, and drop them behind their co-traveling citizens who are unqualified to marry.

I oppose both of these bills because a vote for civil unions under these two bills is a vote for same sex marriage in accord with the national litigation strategy of the ACLU and LAMBDA Legal Defense Fund.

However, I support in concept the intention of HB 1244 in the sense that it recognizes that same sex legal issues always confront unavoidably the long tradition, history, culture and religious beliefs in our state and country that regard homosexual activity dimly and with unapproving concern. Clearly, homosexual activity is not a right protected by the two constitutions under which we govern our lives, although religious freedom is protected by both legal authorities. I therefore agree that HB 1244 is a necessary component of any creation of a civil unions bill. However, it does not go far enough. For the orthodox christian who happens to offer rooms in her home to tourists on a vacation basis, she must be protected from claims of unlawful discrimination if she does not agree that civil unions are the equivalent of marriage and does not want to welcome into her home a homosexual couple. There are cases such as that currently before the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and your body must protect her. I suggest that the scope of the protections afforded by HB1244 be enlarged to accommodate both the institutions and the members of the institution that hold the same religious views HB1244 seeks to protect.

JAMES HOCHBERG
ATTORNEY AT LAW

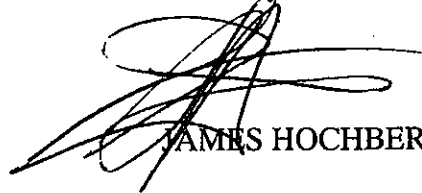
HB 1244, 1453 and SB 232 SD 1 (SSCR 2)
February 4, 2011
Page 4

If HB1244 is not passed but a civil unions bill is passed, you must honor the valid concerns of your citizens and include the substance of HB1244, as extended pursuant to this testimony, into the successful civil unions bill

Furthermore, ask yourself whether you personally have a "sexual orientation" or whether you happen to be oriented in your life more toward things other than with whom you have sex. I believe that most people do not have sexual orientations, but focus on other aspects of their character for their orientation to life. For instance, most people are oriented in life not towards with whom or how they see themselves sexually. Instead, they are oriented toward their faith, family and profession and view most of life from those perspectives.

Thank you for considering this matter. If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,



JAMES HOCHBERG

:JH

JUDtestimony

From: Lynn [bestill@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 5:14 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

My family is a traditional family and my husband and I believe that our traditional marriage - that between a man and a woman - is the very core of our family and the foundation of healthy development and growth for our children. We are strongly opposed to redefining marriage and are therefore strongly opposed to the current bills presented proposing the recognition of "civil unions."

A vote for civil unions IS a vote for same-sex "marriage" in Hawaii. Those lobbying for "civil unions" have intentions of pressing forward to a recognition of same-sex "marriage." "Civil union" brings our state one step closer to the recognition of same-sex "marriage" and one step further from marriage as it was intended to be between a man and a woman.

Hawaii deserves an honest debate on these bills as the bills present an opportunity to change Hawaii's social landscape in tremendous and far-reaching ways for many generations to come. Our decisions today will impact our children, our grand children, our great grand children As we've seen historically in other states that have debated and passed similar bills, we don't want same-sex "marriage" to be forced on our generation or generations to come.

Please preserve traditional marriage and family by OPPOSING HB 1453 and SB 232.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Lwin

JUDtestimony

From: Loyd Clayton [loydclayton@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:44 AM
To: JUDtestimony; Bev & Sharon; Brent Kincaid; Carol Curran; Georgia Lomosad; Linda Estes; Pastor Phylis Meigen; Roy Buduan; Michael Ceurvorst
Subject: Civil Unions Bill

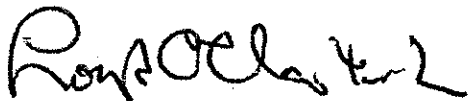
I strongly request your support for SB232 (SD1) and ask that you not support HB1244 and HB1453.

HB1244 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. This is totally unnecessary since no one since SB232-SD1 explicitly states in Section 4(c) that a judge/minister is not required to perform the solemnization ceremony. It is not necessary and will just serve as another thorn in the gay community's side reminding them they are not equal citizens. **PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

HB1453 is unnecessarily complicated and burdened down. By trying to name every possible scenario, items will be left out and loop-holes created. **PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

SB232-SD1 extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. This is a simple, straight-forward bill and is nearly the same (with a few editorial changes made by the senate) as the original bill that already passed but was vetoed by Gov. Lingle. **PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL!**

Thanks,



Loyd Clayton Jr
PO Box 17
Hanapepe, HI 96716

JUDtestimony

From: Scrawford2@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 12:28 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 232; HB 1244 and HB 1453

I am writing to in support of SB 232, HB 1244, and HB 1453.

We need to recognize that the time for discrimination against people who are gay is past. Committed gay couples deserve to be treated equally with committed straight couples. It's an issue of basic fairness.

The situation that exists today is inherently unfair. Britney Spears and a friend can marry on a whim in Las Vegas -- and during their brief fling will automatically receive all the legal, tax, governmental, insurance, and other benefits and rights that marriage grants to them, while a gay couple who may have lived together for 30 years, cared for each other through illnesses, comforted each other after the loss of loved ones and shared their entire lives together remain strangers in the eyes of the law.

The faithful gay partner has no legal right to make important medical decisions for an incapacitated partner. She gets no help from federal legislation that would protect her job in the event she must care for her sick partner. Insurance companies may deny them the opportunity to obtain joint policies for automobile, health and home insurance. (This is true of HMSA.) Or may charge them more than their heterosexual neighbors. When one of them dies, the other may have no legal right to continue living in their home. The deceased unaccepting family member can contest a will and leave the long-term partner bankrupt and tossed out of her home. Such insensitive maneuvers are well known to gay men and lesbians grieving the loss of a longtime partner.

Some people oppose gay unions because they say it is against their religion. In our country, however, one's religious beliefs do not provide veto power over others who have different beliefs.

Some say this decision will dilute or harm the institution of marriage. I think it will reinforce it. Society has a compelling interest in encouraging stable, monogamous relationships between adults - straight and gay. If it's good when straight couples settle down in permanent, legally sanctioned relationships, why is it bad when gay couples do likewise?

People who are in committed relationships buy houses and save money. They are good neighbors; they tend to be more helpful and quieter than singles. The sheer joy and comfort of having a publicly acknowledged close relationship makes one a happier person, and happy people cause less grief to others.

There isn't a limited amount of love in America. It isn't a nonrenewable resource. If Bob and Koa or Carol and Mimi love each other, it doesn't mean Malia and John can't. If homosexuals win the right to civil unions, the victory doesn't come at the expense of heterosexuals, who will retain all the pleasures, prerogatives, and duties that come with existing matrimony. And do not the children of gay folks deserve the protections of civil unions, too?

Gay people have the same needs for genuine affection and committed companionship as do heterosexuals. And so they deserve the same rights and responsibilities in the eyes of the law.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

JUDtestimony

From: Carol Curran [Carol@cacurran.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 1:55 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: I strongly support SB232-SD1

I strongly request your support for SB232 (SD1) and ask that you not support HB1244 and HB1453.

SB232-SD1 extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. This is a simple, straight-forward bill and is nearly the same (with a few editorial changes made by the senate) as the original bill that already passed but was vetoed by Gov. Lingle.

Carol A. Curran
1972 Haleukana Street
Lihue, HI 96766
808-245-6437

JUDtestimony

From: KUALI'I for Kaua'i [kipukai.kualii@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 2:45 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Strongly support SB232(SD1)

TO: The Committee on Judiciary
FROM: KipuKai KUALI'I - Director of Operations, YWCA of Kaua'i; Secretary, Hui Kako'o `Aina Ho`opulapula (DHHL/State of HI); Treasurer, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Kaua'i Chapter; Boardmember, Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED); Candidate, KUALI'I for Kaua'i candidate committee (Kaua'i County Council); Member, Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition/Get Fit Kaua'i Steering Committee; Member, Policy Advisory Committee/Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)
RE: February 8, 2011 at 2:15pm hearing on SB232 (SD1)
POSITION: I strongly support SB232(SD1)

As a Kaua'i born-and-raised, native Hawaiian who spent over ten years away from Hawai'i, I feel strongly that passage of a civil unions bill that provides full equality for all our families is necessary to be consistent with our genuine and unconditional love, acceptance, respect and even celebration of humanity that is the Aloha Spirit. This law [2010's HB444 or 2011's SB232 (SD1)] should have been passed years ago. Unfortunately, deceitful and misguided media campaigns by an opposing minority has meant that justice would be delayed for over ten years and that the fair-minded citizens of Hawai'i would have to wait until now.

The people of Hawai'i do not want to see any of our families treated as second or third-class families any longer. Our local Hawaiian culture and history demands that we honor everyone's dignity and rights. And yet, this is about so much more than our traditions of open, enduring hospitality; instead, it is about compassion, fairness and equal protection under the law. It's about being "pono" and doing what is "right"!

Please do what's right for our State and our people, reject both HB 1244 and HB1453 and pass SB232 (SD1) instead.

--
Me ka ha`aha`a,
KipuKai

KipuKai Kualii
PO Box 662061
Lihu'e, HI 96766

kipukai.kualii@gmail.com

H: (808) 212-9192
C: (808) 652-3684

JUDtestimony

From: Erenio Arincorayan [erenioa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 2:50 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Karen Kushi
Subject: Opposition to HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) | Opposition to SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

Dear Judiciary committee member,

I am born and raised in this state. Just like you, I love living here in Hawaii. I hope you will consider why I am in opposition to HB 1453 & SB 232 SD1, or civil union bills like this.

A vote for civil unions is a vote for same sex marriage.
Same sex marriage will affect my family by setting a wrong example for my children and grandchildren. It will affect the entirety of the heritage the founding fathers of America.

When our country's Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Constitutional Amendments were founded on the freedoms and liberty based on Judeo-Christian values. This is what has made America a great nation.

I am mentioning Judeo because everyone knows who Moses is.
Our American justice system is based out of the ten commandments.
Moses also wrote the book of Leviticus chapter 18, which makes it clear what types of sexual relationship are acceptable.

For example, Leviticus 18:23, Neither shall you lie with any beast to defile yourself therewith . . .
Now when it comes to same sex relationships go to Leviticus 18:22, Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: is is abomination.

The results of all abominations is given in verse 26 on.

Pursuit of happiness does not come without morality.
Basic morality of United States of America are preserved for all to see in the art work in Washington D.C.

For example, Pochantas being baptised.

The men who started our country went into prayer asked God for guidance and direction on how to build America.
Worked on the constitution of America.

Many years has passed.
Now that our country has become wealthy
through the blessings of who?
Wise men? Politicians? Wars? Natural resources ?

Or was it God bless America?

People want to do it their way.
Who knows best?

Coming against the original values of our founding father will destroy not only our state but our country's future.

The Roman Empire fell, it can happen to America.
The very fabric of our country will be affected.

Please Vote No on HB 1453 and SB 232 SD1.

Please represent 69% of Hawaii's people
who support Traditional Marriage between one man and one woman.

Sincerely,

Karen Arincorayan
ph. 942-4594

cases were reported by health providers. Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for the majority of AIDS cases (73%), followed by injection drug use (IDU) (8%), MSM/IDU (7%), and heterosexual contact (6%)." Other similar STD statistics are listed on the website. Thus, there is a genuine concern for the gay community and Hawaii's community with such detrimental, irrefutable health statistics and evidence.

The negative impact on health care providers is also a grave concern. Enacting Civil Unions in our state will open the door to additional law suits when a healthcare provider decides, based on personal conscience, not to provide elective services to a same-sex couple. Such was the artificial insemination case in August 2008, when the California Supreme Court ruled "that patient demand for nonessential care trumps the freedom of conscience of physicians and their ability to practice medicine in accordance with their religious or moral beliefs."

I conclude summarizing that historical research confirms the negative consequences of Civil Unions and the governmental elevation of same-sex relationships. State-sanctioned Civil Unions will have devastating implications on adoption, parental and family rights, health care provider rights and individual religious rights. I believe that you will continue to hear the strong collective voice of social justice of Hawaii's people in the coming weeks if SB 232 and HB 1453 proceeds to legitimize the destruction of our most basic belief of traditional marriage in a family unit. I respectfully request that you preserve Hawaii's desire to protect the legacy and tradition of marriage between one man and one woman, therefore I urge you to please oppose SB 232 and HB 1453. Please support HB 1244 in order to protect clergy from civil or criminal penalties for refusing to perform same-sex ceremonies.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very critical issue.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Toyofuku
Ph: (808) 561-0369

JUDtestimony

From: Cheryl Toyofuku [healthjourney@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 4:45 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO CIVIL UNIONS

Testimony from: Cheryl Toyofuku
Bill Numbers: SB 232, HB 1453 and HB 1244 relating to Civil Unions
Committee: House Judiciary Committee
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Hearing Time: 2:15 p.m.
Hearing Location: State Capitol Auditorium

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO CIVIL UNIONS BILLS SB 232 AND HB 1453
STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1244

Dear Representative Keith-Agaran and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your service to Hawaii as legislators. Please vote against Civil Unions Bill SB 232 and HB 1453 and do not allow it to leave your committee. Please support HB 1244. I appeal to your wisdom and integrity in honoring and preserving our generational legacy and historical tradition of marriage between one man and one woman. In 1998, the people of Hawaii already voted that the marriage institution must be protected and remain between one man and one woman. We have spoken and this issue has already been settled by the people of Hawaii. To usurp the people's voice through the passage of a Civil Unions bill is a travesty that our legislators will be accounted for. Traditional marriage is a basic human and social institution for as long as we can remember and the foundation of the traditional nuclear family should not be undermined. Every child has a biological father and mother and there is substantial evidence that our children develop best in a home with a father and mother role model. This has been our heritage of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and so forth.

The people of Hawaii deserve an honest debate with astute clarity and understanding about the language of these bills. The people of Hawaii have a right to know about how SB 232 and HB 1453 are nearly identical to bills passed in California and Connecticut which led to courts ultimately imposing same-sex "marriage" on those states. Other states such as Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and New Jersey were also plagued with similar situations where activists submitted legislation for "domestic partnerships" or "civil unions" that eventually concluded with same-sex "marriage". For a clearer perspective, please see the attached article "*What Same-Sex Marriage Has Done to Massachusetts*".

Although SB 232 states, "*it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage*", it is very obvious that the activists lobbying for civil unions really want same-sex marriage. Since there really isn't any difference and the goal is the same, it is very clear that **a vote for civil unions is a vote to force same-sex marriage on Hawaii**. This is not a civil rights or equality issue. In my limited understanding of the language in legislative documentation, the careful reading of SB 232 and HB 1453 makes it clear to me that these bills will be setting the stage to re-define "marriage" to include same-sex couples. The goal will be to establish same sex marriage... just under a different name for now to make everyone think it's not about "marriage", but about "equality" or "civil rights". Consider and research the above mentioned states where same-sex advocates initially introduced "civil unions" or "domestic partnerships" bills and later demanded legislative imposition for same-sex "marriage".

The American Civil Liberties Union and its many allies are determined to force all students to undergo indoctrination in homosexual behavior with or without parental permission. If you think this kind of propaganda isn't having a devastating impact, just check out what is going on in California. A state law passed there several years ago eliminates a publicly funded school's ability to make any distinctions based on biological sex, resulting in the wholesale moral subversion of school children. Specifically, this law, S.B. 777, requires that homosexual behavior be presented to young people – all the way down to kindergarten – as a choice just as legitimate and even desirable as heterosexual behavior. What's more, anything that might promote a "discriminatory bias" toward someone's orientation must be removed from the curriculum.

As a Registered Nurse, I am also concerned with the potential increase in diseases to our already burdened health care system. According to the Hawaii State Department of Health website, "As of December 31, 2007, a total of 3,011 AIDS

JUDtestimony

From: Matthew Melendez [m_israel808@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 6:03 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 1453 (Relating to Legal Relationships) and OPPOSITION TO SB 232 SD1 (Relating to Civil Unions)

I would like to oppose the following bills: **SB 232 SD1** & **SB 1453**.

Thank you,

Matt

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:00 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: 170px-Shoninki24_-_disguises.gif; Buddhist Register.jpg

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:

Char & Vice Chair, House JDL Committee Honorable House Committee Members Hawaii State House of Representatives

We support SB 232 SD1 Relating to Civil Unions and as a preferred vehicle, my comments are more in that vein.

However, we thank the three co-sponsors who introduced this "companion" bill on the part of the Chamber.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comments on HB 1453.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Kalihi Valley resident

JUDtestimony

From: Lynne Matusow [lynnehi@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 10:55 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1453, Relating to Legal Relationships

I oppose this bill. This approach is burdensome to implement, difficult to maintain, and prone to extending less than equal status.

Please vote no.

Lynne Matusow
60 N. Beretania, #1804
Honolulu, HI 96817
531-4260

JUDtestimony

From: Kanuji Parmar [kanujiparmar@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:45 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Bill #s HB1244, HB1453, SB232(SD1)

This is to let you know that we oppose Bill number HB1244 and HB1453 and strongly support Bill SB232(SD1).

Sajjan and Kanuji

JUDtestimony

From: Karen Kahn [KKahn@PHInational.org]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 12:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony SB 232, HB1453, and HB1244, Hearing February 8, 2:15
Attachments: Testimony House 2.8.11.doc

Testimony Regarding SB 232, HB1453, HB1244

Hearing February 8, 2011; 2:15 pm, before the House Judiciary Committee

Submitted by Karen Kahn, co-author of *Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Same-Sex Marriages*

Address: 4188-1 Keanu St. Honolulu, HI

Dear Representatives of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of passing a civil unions bill through the Hawaii legislature during the 2011 session. In the state of Massachusetts, where I live for half the year, I am married to my partner, Patricia Gozemba. When I travel to Hawaii each year, for half the year, our marriage is not recognized. That means, during the months that we are here, that we could be faced with an emergency in which we were not recognized as next of kin. Imagine if you traveled to another state, and had to leave behind the protections you share as a family.

It is imperative that our nation meet the challenge of providing full civil rights to same-sex partners—including the right to love and marry the person of our choice. But while that may take some time, Hawaii can make a difference for the thousands of same-sex couples who live here and contribute to the community by paying taxes, raising children, volunteering, helping to preserve Hawaiian culture, and so on. These families need—and deserve—the rights, benefits, and protections that heterosexual couples and their children are granted under Hawaii law. These protections are intended to help families maintain economic security and stability, no small thing in these difficult times.

I would like to share a short story with you. Recently, my partner and I assumed joint ownership of our house and asked our mortgage company to add my name to the mortgage, which had been held in my partner's name only. We were told that our bank did not recognize domestic partnerships or same-sex marriages. Because of our legal marriage, we were able to resolve this issue; but this is the type of discrimination that our families face on a daily basis. We are not treated as equals when it comes to buying a home, saving for retirement, accessing health coverage, or even dissolving our partnerships. This is not healthy for our families or our communities.

During the recent Senate hearing on SB232, several people mentioned the supposed negative consequences of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. All of the testifiers were misinformed about the history of same-sex marriage in our state, and about how our communities have adapted to this change in marriage law. In fact, Massachusetts is an ongoing demonstration of the fact that same-sex marriage is pretty much a non-issue once it is enacted. It does not affect heterosexual marriages, and it does not impact the religious or spiritual life of those who oppose it. Only those who wish to marry, and can benefit from the state sanctioning their family relationships, are affected—and for them it is a change that brings the joy, security and affirmation that strengthens the bonds of family and community.

Same-sex couples have been granted legal family recognition through civil unions or marriage in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Washington, Oregon, California, Iowa, Illinois, and Washington, DC.

Similar legislation is likely to pass in Maryland and New York this year. Hawaii, where diversity is honored more than in any other state in the union, should act quickly to ensure equality and justice for all.

Testimony in regard to SB232, HB 1244, HB1453

Submitted by Karen Kahn

Co-author *Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Same-Sex Marriages*

For

Public Hearing: February 8, 2:15 pm

House Judiciary Committee

Karen Kahn
4188-1 Keanu St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

Dear Representatives of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of passing a civil unions bill through the Hawaii legislature during the 2011 session. In the state of Massachusetts, where I live for half the year, I am married to my partner, Patricia Gozemba. When I travel to Hawaii each year, for half the year, our marriage is not recognized. That means, during the months that we are here, that we could be faced with an emergency in which we were not recognized as next of kin. Imagine if you traveled to another state, and had to leave behind the protections you share as a family.

It is imperative that our nation meet the challenge of providing full civil rights to same-sex partners—including the right to love and marry the person of our choice. But while that may take some time, Hawaii can make a difference for the thousands of same-sex couples who live here and contribute to the community by paying taxes, raising children, volunteering, helping to preserve Hawaiian culture, and so on. These families need—and deserve—the rights, benefits, and protections that heterosexual couples and their children are granted under Hawaii law. These protections are intended to help families maintain economic security and stability, no small thing in these difficult times.

I would like to share a short story with you. Recently, my partner and I assumed joint ownership of our house and asked our mortgage company to add my name to the mortgage, which had been held in my partner's name only. We were told that our bank did not recognize domestic partnerships or same-sex marriages. Because of our legal marriage, we were able to resolve this issue; but this is the type of discrimination that our families face on a daily basis. We are not treated as equals when it comes to buying a home, saving for retirement, accessing health coverage, or even dissolving our partnerships. This is not healthy for our families or our communities.

During the recent Senate hearing on SB232, several people mentioned the supposed negative consequences of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. All of the testifiers were misinformed about the history of same-sex marriage in our state, and about how our communities have adapted to this change in marriage law. In fact, Massachusetts is an ongoing demonstration of the fact that same-sex marriage is pretty much a non-issue once it is enacted. It does not affect heterosexual marriages, and it does not impact the religious or spiritual life of those who oppose it. Only those who wish to marry, and can benefit from the state sanctioning their family relationships, are affected—and for them it is a change that brings the joy, security and affirmation that strengthens the bonds of family and community.

Same-sex couples have been granted legal family recognition through civil unions or marriage in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Washington, Oregon, California, Iowa, Illinois, and Washington, DC. Similar legislation is likely to pass in Maryland and New York this year. Hawaii, where diversity is honored more than in any other state in the union, should act quickly to ensure equality and justice for all.

JUDtestimony

From: Paul Blaicher [paul.blaicher@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 7:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: SB 232 and HB 1453

To whom it may concern:

I wish to respectfully voice my concern over the consideration that the Judiciary Committee is taking over SB 232 (relating to civil unions) and HB 1453 (relating to legal relationships). At the same time, I wish to voice my support for HB 1244 (Relating to solemnization). Please understand that I (and a majority of Hawaiians) still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman. As can be seen in trends across these United States, as quickly as a civil union bill is passed, demands for same-sex "marriage" quickly follow. I would implore you to keep in mind the people whom you represent and the beliefs that they continue to uphold. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Paul Blaicher

JUDtestimony

From: Kent Hirata [khirata2@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: In support of SB232 (SD1)

For:

Public hearing on HB1244, HB1453, and SB232 (SD1)
February 8, 2011 at 2:15 p.m.
Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2425

Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I have been following the struggle to enact civil unions in Hawaii with great interest, because it concerns the strength of our state's commitment to liberty and justice **for all**.

Let me begin by saying that HB1244 seems to be unnecessary, and that SB232 may provide a more efficient way to accomplish what HB1453 is intended to accomplish. Now, having said that, I would like to observe that the same reasons that made last year's HB444 worthy of passage, apply with equal force to SB232. In my testimony on SB232 which I recently e-mailed to the Senate Judiciary Committee, I presented the following points, some of which I have further edited and expanded.

(1) The passage and signing of SB232 would legislatively correct a long-standing injustice that conflicts with the equal-protection provisions of the state and federal constitutions. A legislative remedy for this injustice would be preferable to intervention by the courts, which would be inevitable if they rule in favor of the gay and lesbian plaintiffs in *Young v. Lingle*.

(2) Simple considerations of fairness more than justify legislative efforts to provide equal benefits and equal protections, not only to gays and lesbians, but also to their children.

In a letter to the editor which was published in the January 28, 2010 Honolulu Advertiser, Dr. Joshua Hawley, a local physician, stated that he has "witnessed firsthand the odious effects of discrimination against gay and lesbian families. Same-sex couples, many of whom are raising children, do not receive the same protection under the law as heterosexual married couples. Children of gay and lesbian families can enter legal limbo and be forced into the foster system should the biological parent die and the other parent is not legally recognized." He went on to say that "all families in Hawaii deserve equal dignity and respect under the law."

(3) In enacting civil unions, Hawaii would not be initiating an unprecedented social and legal experiment. A number of other states have enacted civil unions or domestic partnerships, and same-sex marriages are now legal in the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, and New Hampshire. In addition, ten foreign countries--Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, and Argentina--have already legalized same-sex marriages.

(4) Same-sex marriages have been legal in Massachusetts since May 17, 2004. From that time forward (a period of nearly seven years), Massachusetts has not experienced dire consequences attributable to same-sex

marriages. Among other things, it still enjoys a healthy tourist industry.

For example, the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism reports that "domestic and international travelers in Massachusetts directly spent nearly \$14.4 billion on transportation, lodging, food, entertainment and recreation and incidentals during 2009." In that same year, "domestic and international traveler spending in Massachusetts generated \$2.2 billion [in] tax revenue for [the] federal, state and local governments," of which close to \$574 million went to the state government and nearly \$342 million went to local governments. The total tax revenue contributed by tourism to the state and local governments in Massachusetts in 2009 was therefore close to \$916 million.

If legalization of same-sex **marriages** in Massachusetts did not result in a boycott that substantially damaged Massachusetts' tourist industry, or bring about other dire consequences, there is no reason to think that Hawaii would experience dire consequences if **civil unions** were enacted here.

(5) According to an article in the May 25, 2010 Honolulu Advertiser, two UH-Manoa economists, Sumner La Croix and Kimberly Burnett, have reported that civil unions would not impose undue administrative or economic burdens on the state. In fact, they estimate that civil unions could add \$6.9 million annually to the state's economy. This suggests that civil unions could enhance Hawaii's ability to compete with other destinations for a share of tourist dollars.

(6) In a May 6, 2010 commentary in the Honolulu Advertiser, John Webster, director of the Hogan Entrepreneurs Program at Chaminade University, stated that civil unions would be good for business. As he put it, "businesses of all size[s] thrive when governments are clean and their employees and partners and clients are afforded basic civil rights and civil liberties." He remarked that the 2010 Legislature's passage of HB444 was "a political and human reaction to the overwhelming case for justice that the bill's proponents brought to the table, time and time again."

(7) The contention that enactment of civil unions would be inevitably followed by court-ordered legalization of same-sex marriages has been refuted by retired Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice Steven Levinson. He pointed out that Hawaii's courts cannot override the Legislature's discretionary authority to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples, because that authority resides in the Hawaii Constitution--the state's highest law.

(8) Justice Levinson also pointed out that "by definition, civil rights can't be defined by the majority. That's why we have a Bill of Rights, both at the federal and the state level."

(9) The argument that civil unions are not needed because Hawaii's reciprocal-beneficiaries law could be expanded to provide a wider range of benefits and protections is defective. Expanding that law in a way that falls short of providing truly equal benefits and truly equal protections would still perpetuate inequality and would still invite intervention by the courts.

Equality under the law cannot be achieved through incomplete, piecemeal measures which would continue to deny tax-paying, law-abiding gays and lesbians access to the full menu of benefits and protections that heterosexual citizens automatically receive, simply by virtue of their being heterosexual. The reciprocal-beneficiaries law could not serve as a replacement for SB232, unless it were rewritten so as to match SB232 in sum and substance.

(10) On the subject of civil unions, the religious community is divided, rather than united. People who express faith-based opposition to civil unions do not speak for **all** people of faith, nor should their views be given more weight than the views of believers who **support** civil unions.

In a commentary which was published in the December 11, 1996 issue of The Anderson News, the Reverend

Dave Charlton, a Southern Baptist, wrote that "the opponents of same-sex marriage [or civil unions] . . . who base their position on scriptural interpretations fail to understand . . . that the state will not set legal precedents based upon what is recorded in scripture. The state will base its decision upon what is in keeping with the rights that are given to [all of] its citizens. Gay people have legitimate rights in our society and the state has an obligation to protect those rights."

(11) When complying with tradition would leave palpable injustice uncorrected, tradition must yield to measures that restore justice. As Jay Sakashita, assistant professor of religion at Leeward Community College, stated in his May 22, 2010 commentary in the Honolulu Advertiser, "traditions . . . should . . . not be invoked to mask [or perpetuate] discrimination."

Thomas Jefferson put it this way: "**Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind.** . . . We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him as a boy, as a civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

(12) Finally, to correct a common false belief, civil unions are **not** marriages under a different name. Unlike marriages, they are **not** transportable from one state to any other state. Moreover, because of the Defense of Marriage Act, participants in civil unions (and even same-sex marriages) are denied access to 1,138 federal benefits, rights, and privileges which are available only to married **heterosexual** couples.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Kent Hirata
1666-A Lusitana Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-1690

JUDtestimony

From: Elaine Brown [elainebrown@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 9:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Oppose SB 232, SD1 and HB 1453. And Support HB 1244

Aloha Judiciary Chair and Committee Members,

I respectfully request that you OPPOSE SB 232, SD1 and HB 1453 because it is flawed and it will have unintended consequences to our families, children, community, economy and state. There are better alternatives for us to consider in this legislative session, with the foremost being HB 165 which allows clarification of marriage be put on the ballot so voters to can make their voices known and whether we should amend our constitution accordingly. I also do not agree with the "equality and civil right" stance to justify civil union because homosexual preference does not arise from genetic makeup but rather choices. A series of scientific research suggesting homosexual preference is linked to genetic makeup is NOT fact and one need only look at who is funding the research scope. Other scientific research shows there is no link to genetic preference.

I support HB 1244 as pastors and ministers should be protected if they refuse to perform union ceremonies. As it is, they can decline to perform a marriage ceremony if they believe the man and women are not suited for marriage at the time or right for the other person. This is not discrimination, just that they do not agree to perform the ceremony in their good judgements.

JUDtestimony

From: Sukwah Grace Lin [sukwahlin@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 1:19 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** OPPOSITION TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Sirs/Mdms,

I strongly oppose SB 232 SD1, HB 1453 and I strongly support HB 1244, HB 165

As a registered dietitian, I had worked in hospital settings for a number of years. I had helped provide nutritional support to numerous AIDS patients. These patients usually require isolation rooms, i.e. a room all by themselves, whoever went into the rooms require special gowns and masks. Everyone on the medical team must take extra measure when we dealt with patients like that. They usually stayed for months. Then a few months later, they would come back again, again and again. According to my observations, they suffered very slow and agonizing deaths, which a lot of times include cancers and tumors. As I got to know them better, I found that these are usually very bright, intelligent and nice people who were supposed to be in the prime of their years. I had great respect for them. At the same time, I felt great loss for these very valuable human beings.

While we cannot dictate how people conduct their private lives, it does not make sense to me why we have to actively support the homosexual lifestyle, which can cost us millions of dollars to support their medical treatments. It does not make sense to me even more why we have to teach our children that this is an acceptable alternative lifestyle. It is like teaching our children how to get cancer and to die young, and tell them that this is acceptable and good.

God loves the homosexuals. He has also provided ways for them to be made whole. There are ministries such as Love Won Out by Focus on the Family, or the Exodus that help homosexuals heal. Sy Rogers, David Kyle Foster who were gay, or bi-sexual are excellent examples of how God transform their lives. Homosexuals are not stuck. They have choices to make. God has provided ways for them.

Secondly, the law must not force ministers to violate their conscience and their commitment before God to solemnize the same sex marriage vows. That would be violating their constitutional right of freedom of speech.

Lastly, I also support that marriage should be defined as between a man and a woman as how God ordained it to be in the Book of Genesis.

Thank you.

Sukwah Grace Lin, M.S., R.D.

JUDtestimony

From: Margaret Scow [jonlovesmargaret@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:03 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: STRONG OPPOSITION to civil unions by former lesbian
Attachments: Annemarie's Letter to Strongly Oppose HB1453.doc

Aloha Chairman Representative Keith-Agaran & Judiciary Committee,

I am a former lesbian. Attached is my letter in strong opposition to civil unions bill HB1453.

Annemarie

February 6, 2011

To: The House Judiciary Committee; Chairman Gilbert Keith-Agaran & Committee Members

From: Annemarie Frye

Re: HB1453, Relating to Civil Unions

Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 8th

Hearing Location: Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium

Strongly oppose HB1453

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran & House Judiciary Committee Members,

I am currently on the Mainland and I'm sorry that I cannot be in Hawaii in person to read this testimony at the Hearing.

My name is Annemarie Frye and I am a former lesbian. I would ask that you OPPOSE HB1453, the Civil Unions Bill. I believe that marriage or in this case, a Civil Union should be between one man and one woman, only.

Three years ago, I got married to my husband after having struggled with homosexual feelings for as long as I can remember. We also have a 7 ½ month old son. Until a few years ago I would never believe that I could get married to a wonderful man. As I worked through my issues with defensive detachment with my mother and abuse from my dad, I started to change. Since I became a Christian at age 25 I have never pursued a same-sex relationship, because in my view God does not approve of such relationships. Thankfully I received counseling and over the years I developed a desire to be married. Before that I was always open to it, but at that point it was something I longed for. I had found my identity as a woman, which had been suppressed and shut down. As my identity as a woman became stronger I desired to be with a man, no longer with a woman. It is not that I never struggle with same-sex attraction, but it has become a sideline issue instead of my core struggle. I am truly happy to be married.

I have been involved with women and I can tell you the difference between those relationships and my marriage to my husband. I have personally experienced the dysfunction in same-sex relationships. Besides that I have studied counseling and know what can cause homosexual tendencies as well as what is the road to healing.

In my opinion marriage cannot be opened up for couples of the same-sex. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman, which God has ordained. There is a complementary in man and woman that you cannot find in same sex relationships.

According to this bill HB1453, same-sex couples can adopt children and raise them. The role of a father is very different from the role of a mother and children will grow up confused. How does a little boy learn he is a boy if he grows up with two women? Even though one might be very masculine and the other more feminine. How can a girl know the love of a man, a father if she grows up with two women? This will cause gender confusion in children. We cannot allow our children to grow up in a society where a husband and a wife are no longer the cornerstone in society.

So I would like to ask you **not** to pass this Bill HB1453 and vote against it, for the benefit of our children and our nation.

Sincerely,

Annemarie Frye

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:15 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: robinwurtzel@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: testimony HB 1453.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robin Wurtzel
Organization: Individual
Address: 2354 Liloa Rise Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone:
E-mail: robinwurtzel@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

Thank you for your consideration in receiving this testimony

To: JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
From: Robin Wurtzel
Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1453**
Relating to Legal Relationships
Hearing set for Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 2:15 p.m.
Date: February 3, 2011

Sent via E-mail

Dear Committee Chair and Members;

I am writing, as an individual, in strong support of HB1453.

It is just and appropriate to extend greater protections and rights to lesbian and gay couples than those currently provided under Hawai'i law.

This bill will allow same-sex couples to jointly adopt a child, protect the parties in a same-sex relationship if they separate, and provide a vehicle for private employers to offer health benefits to same-sex couples, to terminate the relationships and other issues. I would ask the legislature to support this bill, however it is lengthy and I support it with the request that sections that relate to matters covered in other statutes be deleted and the related statutes be amended to include application to same-sex relationships.

It is important for us as a society that all residents of our State be treated equally. Thus, I urge you to vote yes.

Yours,
Robin Wurtzel
2354 Liloa Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

JUDtestimony

From: Rob Hauff [rhauff@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:35 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Pass HB 1453

Aloha,

I support the passage of HB 1453. Recognizing same-sex relationships under the law is the right and just thing to do and will strengthen Hawaii's families. Someday our children will look back and wonder what all the fuss was about. Please quickly facilitate the passage of this bill.

Robert Hauff
3732B Kilauea Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

JUDtestimony

From: Margaret Scow [aaadrywall@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 4:30 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Strong OPPOSITION to HB1453
Attachments: Testimony in strong OPPOSITION to HB1453, relating to civil unions.doc

Aloha Chairman Representative Keith-Agaran & House Judiciary Committee Members,

Attached is my Testimony in strong OPPOSITION to HB1453.

Best Regards,

Margaret Scow

AAA Drywall & Masonry, LLC

Mililani, HI 96789

Ph/Fax (808) 627-0872

Date: Monday, February 07, 2011
 To: Chairman Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran & House Judiciary Committee
 From: Margaret Scow
 Re: **Strong Opposition to HB1453**

As a Hawaii resident, I believe the role of each Legislator is to represent the people of Hawaii. The people of Hawaii have already voted for Traditional Marriage in 1998. The Rally numbers at the Capitol were also record breaking with approximately 12,000 participants against Civil Unions at the first Rally in 2009 and then 20,000 in attendance at the second Rally against Civil Unions in 2010. There has never been a larger Rally in the history of the Hawaii State Capitol. One would believe this would speak volumes. However, there are some Legislators who want to pass this bill against the will of the people. **A simple solution would be to set a hearing date for HB165 and let the people of Hawaii decide if they want Traditional Marriage or Same Sex Marriage.**

Since 2009, the District of Columbia has been experiencing a "Severe Epidemic" of AIDS/HIV due to their acceptance of domestic partnerships, similar to civil unions. On Sunday, March 15, 2009, the Washington Post reported that the HIV/AIDS Rate in D.C. has hit an all time high of three percent. And the Washington Post reported that this percentage rate is "Considered a 'Severe' Epidemic..."¹ The Bible says in Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." These are some of the consequences of the homosexual behavior or "Civil Unions" that some Legislators want to legalize. Remember, you reap what you sow and you will cause Hawaii's population to reap consequences from the laws you sow into our state.

What makes the HIV/AIDS rate in Washington D.C. a plague or a "severe epidemic"?

Overall, 3 percent of all District residents are currently known to be living with HIV/AIDS. To put that in context, the United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have historically defined an HIV epidemic as generalized and severe when the overall percentage of disease among residents of a specific geographic area exceeds 1 percent. The overall proportion in the District is three times higher. This calculation is based on the number of cases already diagnosed and reported and U.S. Census figures of our population. Moreover, based on new targeted studies of behavior that indicate between one-third and one-half of residents may be unaware of their infection, we know that the true number of residents currently infected and living with HIV is certainly higher. In the District, nearly every population group and age is experiencing a substantial epidemic. ²

Once again, the largest contributor to HIV/AIDS in Washington D.C. has been MSM or Men who have sex with Men.

Overall, men who have sex with men (MSM) is the leading mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS accounting for 37% of living cases, followed by heterosexual contact and injection drug use with 28% and 18%, respectively....MSM transmission is the leading mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS among whites (78%) and Hispanics (49%),...³

Even the free distribution of condoms has not been able to stop the alarming increase in AIDS/HIV. The District of Columbia is one of only two cities in the country with a large scale condom distribution program. In 2008, the HIV/AIDS Administration distributed 1.5 million condoms, making progress toward the goal of three million condoms per year.⁴ **But as you can see, free condoms has not stopped the spread of HIV and AIDS in the District of Columbia.**

The reason why this is a "high prevalence epidemic" is because of the amount of people in Washington D.C. that are living with HIV and because of the increase in reported cases. Also, there are many cases that go unreported.

UNAIDS and CDC define high prevalence epidemics as those where the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is greater than 1%. As of December 31, 2007 there were 15,120 residents of the District of Columbia living with HIV/AIDS, 3% of the population over the age of 12 years (adults and adolescents). This is a 22% increase from 12,428 cases reported at the end of 2006.⁵

With the legalization of Civil Unions, every Public School in Hawaii will be infected with homosexual teachings. With the legalization of homosexual marriage, every public school will be required to teach this perversion as the moral equivalent of traditional marriage between a man and a woman. Textbooks, even in conservative regions, will have to depict man/man and woman/woman relationships, and stories written for children as young as elementary school, or even kindergarten, will have to give equal space and emphasis to homosexuals. How can a child, fresh out of

toddlerhood, comprehend the meaning of adult sexuality? The answer is, they can't, but it is happening in the state of California already.**6**

IF Civil Unions is legalized in Hawaii, Legislators who are so obsessed with passing this bill better be ready for a possible collapse in Hawaii's Medical Industry. Hawaii will reap what is sown.

The health care system will stagger and perhaps collapse. Please see my testimony in Strong OPPOSITION to SB232 for more statistics and facts. This could be the straw that breaks the back of the insurance industry in Western nations, as millions of new dependents become eligible for coverage. Every HIV-positive patient needs only to find a partner to receive the same coverage as offered to an employee. It is estimated by some analysts that an initial **threefold increase in premiums** can be anticipated; even with that, it may not be profitable for companies to stay in business.

And how about the cost to American businesses? Will they be able to provide health benefits? If not, can physicians, nurses, and technicians be expected to work for nothing or to provide their services in exchange for a vague promise of payments from indigent patients? Try selling that to a neurosurgeon or an orthopedist who has to pay increased premiums for malpractice insurance. The entire health care system could implode.**7**

IF Civil Unions is legalized in Hawaii, more economical trouble will be on the brink with Social Security. Again, with millions of new eligible dependents, what will happen to the Social Security system that is already facing bankruptcy? If it does collapse, what will that mean for elderly people who must rely totally on that meager support? Who is thinking through these draconian possibilities as we careen toward "a brave new world"? **8**

And to reiterate, Massachusetts is the precedence for many of the reasons why we SHOULD NOT legalize Civil Unions in Hawaii. Domestic Violence will explode. Massachusetts' budget for Domestic Violence in 2008 started at \$100,000 but in just one year since Same Sex Marriage was legalized, the Domestic Violence budget went up to \$350,000. That's a quarter of a million dollar increase. **9 Of course Massachusetts Budget is much much smaller than Hawaii's Budget and Hawaii's cost of living also comes into play.**

And how healthy is the homosexual/bisexual population in Massachusetts? Is it really that bad? Where should we start? Domestic violence, drugs, suicide or sexual assault victimization?

"The health profile of gay/lesbian/homosexual residents was poorer than that of heterosexual/straight residents on: self-reported health; disability-related activity limitation; asthma; current and past tobacco smoking; anxious mood; 30-day binge drinking and substance use; and lifetime sexual assault victimization. In addition, lesbian/homosexual women were more likely to be obese than their heterosexual/straight female peers. Bisexual residents fared worse than heterosexual/straight residents in terms of: access to health insurance, as well as medical and dental providers; heart disease; anxious and depressed moods, 12-month suicidal ideation; current tobacco smoking, and lifetime and 12-month sexual assault victimization. In addition, bisexual women were more likely to report disability-related activity limitation, 30-day illicit drug use, and lifetime intimate partner violence victimization than heterosexual/straight women." **10**

Regardless of what major city you look at, Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) is always the primary mode of transmission. Here is the 2008 Report from the Department of Health in the county of San Diego:

Individuals diagnosed with AIDS in San Diego County are most commonly white, male, aged 30 to 39 years, and have male sex partners. Over the course of the epidemic there have been slow increases in the proportion of diagnoses in blacks, Hispanics, women, people aged 40 or older, and those having used injected drugs....

...For men, the predominant mode of transmission is Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) (79%) followed by MSM and Injecting Drug Use (MSM+IDU) (11%) (see Table 12). Over the years, heterosexual contact and IDU have become somewhat more frequent modes of transmission in men, but MSM remains the primary risk for transmission. **11**

And of Course, we can't leave out Hawaii. So here's the statistics on AIDS in Hawaii.

As of December 31, 2007, a total of 3,011 AIDS cases were reported by health providers and 1,752 (58.2%) of these individuals are known to be deceased.Hawaii's AIDS case report rate for 2007 was 6.4 (per 100,000 population).

Although the majority of Hawaii's AIDS cases (92%) are men, the proportion of cases diagnosed in women has been increasing over time. Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for the majority of AIDS cases (73%), followed by injection drug use (IDU) (8%), MSM/IDU combination (7%), and heterosexual contact (6%). The proportion of AIDS cases related to MSM and IDU have decreased over time, and slightly increased for MSM/IDU and for heterosexual contact over time. **12**

And here are some Hawaii statistics on STD's.

Ninety (90%) of P(rietary) & S(econdary) cases (of syphilis) in 2003 were men who have sex with men of whom 60% were co-infected with HIV/AIDS. Pockets of syphilis outbreaks have continued confirming the increasing trend in syphilis and other STDs. **13**

Legalizing Civil Unions will promote homosexuality among the youth and adults. More STD's will be spread in Hawaii, IF Civil Unions were legalized. In the Netherlands, where Same Sex Marriage is legal, homosexual men have contracted and spread Lymphogranuloma Venereum, a sexually transmitted disease that is predominant in homosexual men. Of all of these Lymphogranuloma Venereum outbreaks in the Netherlands, nearly all LGV cases are MSM (Men having sex with Men). **14**

There must be a standard to measure right and wrong. God's law is above Man's law and should be used as that standard. The Founding Fathers of the United States of America used the Bible as their standard. Our Constitution consists of Biblical principles and that's the reason our Constitution has lasted over 230 years as compared to other countries such as France where their Constitution changes every 7 years. God's standard says that marriage is between one man and one woman. Homosexuals are a special population looking for special privileges. But if we give those privileges (Civil Unions) to homosexuals, we must also give those privileges to pedophiles, to polygamists, to a woman who wants to marry her cat and so forth. This is a small population of people (less than 2% in Hawaii) who are asking for special rights. Even the Hawaii Department of Health Guidelines refers to MSM (Men who have sex with Men) and WSW (Women who have sex with Women), as a "Specials Population". **15**

Dr. James Dobson says that we will be "setting the table for polygamists" IF Civil Unions is legalized.

Why will gay marriage set the table for polygamy? Because there is no place to stop once that Rubicon has been crossed. Historically, the definition of marriage has rested on a foundation of tradition, legal precedent, theology and the overwhelming support of the people. After the introduction of marriage between homosexuals, however, it will be supported by nothing more substantial than the opinion of a single judge or by a black-robed panel of justices. After they have reached their dubious decisions, the family will consist of little more than someone's interpretation of "rights." Given that unstable legal climate, it is certain that some self-possessed judge, somewhere, will soon rule that three men or three women can marry. Or five men and two women. Or four and four. Who will be able to deny them that right? The guarantee is implied, we will be told, by the Constitution. Those who disagree will continue to be seen as hate-mongers and bigots. (Indeed, those charges are already being leveled against Christians who espouse biblical values!) How about group marriage, or marriage between cousins, or marriage between daddies and little girls? How about marriage between a man and his donkey? Anything allegedly linked to "civil rights" will be doable. The legal underpinnings for marriage will have been destroyed. **16**

IF Civil Unions were legalized in Hawaii, eventually, Churches in Hawaii will lose their tax-exempt status if they do not perform homosexual marriages. (Loss of Church Rights or Religious Rights)

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, a New Jersey United Methodist organization, lost part of its property tax-exemption for refusing to allow a same-sex civil union ceremony to be conducted on its property. Additionally, it is being investigated and charged with violating the state's nondiscrimination statutes. The church is still locked in litigation. And if you thought statutory "religious exemptions" would protect churches, forget it. New Jersey has one, and it hasn't stopped the government persecution of this church. **17**

The Loss of Parental Rights is also a huge concern. Homosexual marriage affects my family because I don't want my children to learn homosexual education in the public schools. If I want my children to learn Christianity in school, I have to send them to a Christian school. If I want my children to learn homosexuality (which I don't), I should have to send them to a homosexual school, not the public school that is supposed to be available for all parents with all backgrounds and shown no partiality.

The Parker and Wirthlin families in Massachusetts lost a federal lawsuit in 2008 when they asked to be informed when the teacher was going to address issues of sex and family. They were rudely informed by not one but two federal courts that any parental rights stopped at the schoolhouse door. Their right to control their children's moral upbringing did not supersede the homosexual agenda in Massachusetts. In the words of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals: "Given that Massachusetts has recognized gay marriage under its state constitution, it is entirely rational for its schools to educate their students regarding that recognition."

The two children involved in the suit attended kindergarten and first grade. The gist of the state's argument, with which the court agreed, is that the earlier the state can indoctrinate our kids, the less likely that the values (the court called them "attitudes and stereotypes" of course) taught at home can corrupt them. Think about that for a moment. **18**

Lastly, there are many legislators that I have talked to in the last few months that do not have correct information about our Founding Fathers and the Original Intent of the Constitution. This bothers me greatly because as Hawaii State Legislators, I feel that each of you should be equipped to cite the Constitution (even if you read it from a booklet), know the names of the Founding Fathers and some of their background (www.wallbuilders.org) and have knowledge about our country's foundation and history. We are supposed to be a Christian nation and without apology. If our children were taught correct historical information, I believe the crime rate among the youth population would go down tremendously. People need to know their roots and then behavior can follow.

Please vote NO to HB1453, relating to civil unions.

Sincerely,

Margaret R. Scow

(808) 627-0872

Footnotes are listed below

- 1 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/14/AR2009031402176_pf.html

The Washington Post; HIV/AIDS Rate in D.C. Hits 3%; By Jose Antonio Vargas and Darryl Fears, Washington Post Staff Writers; Sunday, March 15, 2009; A01 (Staff writers Jon Cohen and Jennifer Agiesta contributed to this report).

- 2 http://www.dchealth.dc.gov/doh/frames.asp?doc=/doh/lib/doh/pdf/dc_hiv-aids_2008_updatereport.pdf Huge Impacts Across Populations & Neighborhoods page 11
- 3 http://www.dchealth.dc.gov/doh/frames.asp?doc=/doh/lib/doh/pdf/dc_hiv-aids_2008_updatereport.pdf Summary page 18
- 4 http://www.dchealth.dc.gov/doh/frames.asp?doc=/doh/lib/doh/pdf/dc_hiv-aids_2008_updatereport.pdf Free Condoms page 14
- 5 http://www.dchealth.dc.gov/doh/frames.asp?doc=/doh/lib/doh/pdf/dc_hiv-aids_2008_updatereport.pdf Summary page 18

6 <http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/homosexuality/maf/A000004753.cfm>
Eleven Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage by Dr. James Dobson

7 <http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/homosexuality/maf/A000004753.cfm>
Eleven Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage; by Dr. James Dobson

8 <http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/homosexuality/maf/A000004753.cfm>
Eleven Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage by Dr. James Dobson

9 <http://www.redcounty.com/sarasota/2008/10/what-same-sex-marriage-has-don/>

What Same Sex Marriage has done to Massachusetts.

10 http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/health_equity/sexual_orientation_disparities_report.pdf
A Health Profile of Massachusetts Adults by Sexual Orientation Identity: Results from the 2001-2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Surveys November 2008

11 <http://www2.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/documents/HAEUAnnualReport2008.pdf>
2008 HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Report
County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency page 5 & page 6

12 <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/aboutus/prg-aids/hivaids-epi-data.html>
Hawaii State Department of Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program
HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in Hawai'i

13 <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/stds/std-data-statistics.html>
Hawaii State Department of Health – STD's

14 Warning: contains graphic photos <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/HI%20Top%2010%20Updates%20to%20National%20STD%20Rx%20Guidelines%2010%2025%2007.pdf>
Top 10 Updates to the National STD Treatment Guidelines
Gail Bolan MD
Chief, STD Control Branch
CA Department of Public Health
October 25, 2007 Page 39 & 40

15 <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/HI%20Top%2010%20Updates%20to%20National%20STD%20Rx%20Guidelines%2010%2025%2007.pdf>
Top 10 Updates to the National STD Treatment Guidelines
Gail Bolan MD
Chief, STD Control Branch
CA Department of Public Health
October 25, 2007 – Prevention Issue Page 5

16 <http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/homosexuality/maf/A000004753.cfm>
Eleven Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage by Dr. James Dobson

17 <http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/Courts/cases/A000008677.cfm>
Does Same-Sex 'Marriage' Affect My Marriage by Bruce Hausknecht, Judicial Analyst

18 <http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/Courts/cases/A000008677.cfm>
Does Same-Sex 'Marriage' Affect My Marriage by Bruce Hausknecht, Judicial Analyst

For more Economical Statistics, please refer to my written testimony on HB444 which was submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee for the Hearing in 2009.

Testimonies in Strong Support of HB 1453

Charlene Cuaresma [ccuaresma@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 7:56 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Attachments: HB1453 Legal Relationships~1.DOC (27 KB) ; HB1453 Legal Relationships~2.DOC (34 KB) ; HB1453 Legal Relationships~3.DOC (30 KB) ; HB1453 Legal Relationships~4.DOC (27 KB) ; HB1453 Legal Relationships~5.DOC (28 KB) ; ATT00001..txt (485 B)

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1453

House Judiciary Committee
February 8, 2011, 2:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

Measure Title: RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Description: Establishes civil unions and provides to civil union partners the benefits and obligations conferred upon a couple by marriage. Provides for termination of civil unions through the judicial system.

To: Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoades, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee Members:
Rep. Blake Oshiro, Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Rep. Mele Carroll,
Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey,
Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. George Fontaine, Rep. Barbara
Marumoto, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Private Citizen
728 Nunu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill. With the privileges that come with being a heterosexual woman, married to a heterosexual man, I am dismayed that my other family members, friends, and others in our Aloha State are being denied their civil rights, legal rights, and privileges that are unjustly conferred only to those of married, heterosexual couples like me. This bill would go a long way to strengthen Hawai'i's disenfranchised families.

Congratulations to our lawmakers who introduced this bill: Rep. Scott Saiki, Rep. Chris Lee and former Rep. Hermina Morita. Thank you, Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, for hearing this bill. I encourage you and your Judiciary Committee to please use your legislative powers to protect all people, not just a few.

Very Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma
Private Citizen

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1453

House Judiciary Committee

February 8, 2011, 2:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature | Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

Measure Title: RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Description: Establishes civil unions and provides to civil union partners the benefits and obligations conferred upon a couple by marriage. Provides for termination of civil unions through the judicial system.

To: Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoades, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee Members: Rep. Blake Oshiro, Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. George Fontaine, Rep. Barbara Marumoto, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill. As a former legislator, father, and grandfather, and church-going community member, I believe, as does our Hawai'i-born President Barack Obama, that our nation and Hawai'i State Legislature, need to support full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill. I urge you to shepherd this most important civil rights issue to its safe passage. In this day and age, isn't it time to do the right thing?

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg
President
Filipino American Citizens League

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street Honolulu, HI 96819

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1453

House Judiciary Committee

February 8, 2011, 2:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

Measure Title: RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Description: Establishes civil unions and provides to civil union partners the benefits and obligations conferred upon a couple by marriage. Provides for termination of civil unions through the judicial system.

To: Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoades, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee Members:
Rep. Blake Oshiro, Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. George Fontaine, Rep. Barbara Marumoto, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

From: Agnes Malate, Filipinos for Affirmative Action

My name is Agnes Malate. As a board member of Filipinos for Affirmative Action, a proponent of civil rights, I submit strong support for HB 1453.

We believe that equal rights and responsibilities should be granted to all couples without gender-based discrimination.

Respectfully submitted,

Agnes Malate
Filipinos for Affirmative Action
Board Member

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1453

House Judiciary Committee
February 8, 2011, 2:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

Measure Title: RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Description: Establishes civil unions and provides to civil union partners the benefits and obligations conferred upon a couple by marriage. Provides for termination of civil unions through the judicial system.

To: Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoades, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee Members:
Rep. Blake Oshiro, Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. George Fontaine, Rep. Barbara Marumoto, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

From: Nicki Garces, Private Citizen
2027 Wilcox Ln. #105, Honolulu, HI 96819

My name is Nicki Garces. I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill. While I understand and respect various views of religious institutions on this issue, granting equal rights through civil unions in no way impacts marriage. The U.S. Constitution protects the freedom of religious communities to define marriage according to their respective belief systems. However, I ask lawmakers to please be clear in separating Church and State when deliberating equal protections under the law.

Thank you for having the political courage to hear this bill. All citizens of Hawai'i deserve to live in a civil society. We respectfully look to your leadership and vigilance toward civil rights to pass this landmark legislation.

Very Sincerely,

Nicki Garces
Concerned Citizen

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1453

House Judiciary Committee
February 8, 2011, 2:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

Measure Title: RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

Description: Establishes civil unions and provides to civil union partners the benefits and obligations conferred upon a couple by marriage. Provides for termination of civil unions through the judicial system.

To: Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoades, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee Members:
Rep. Blake Oshiro, Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. George Fontaine, Rep. Barbara Marumoto,
Rep. Cynthia Thielen

From: Helena Manzano, Private Citizen
2631 Namau Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

My name is Helena Manzano. I have worked as a social worker for systems changes to ensure civil rights protections for underserved populations for nearly 20 years in California and Hawai'i. I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill.

We are fortunate that President Barack Obama is in support of full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples.

I hope that Hawai'i's lawmakers will see the wisdom and jurisprudence in protecting the civil rights of all people.

Very Sincerely,

Helena Manzano, MSW
Private Citizen

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:31 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorothy Cornell
Organization: Individual
Address: 545 Queen St. #717 Honolulu HI 96813
Phone:
E-mail: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 1:43 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: randftadda@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank Tadda
Organization: Individual
Address: 95-1050 Makaikai St 14c Mililani,Hi
Phone: 808-626-1717
E-mail: randftadda@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Please do not be misled. This bill, HB1453 is not generated by the legislators, it is at the instigation of the devil himself in order to create chaos in this world and so we ask that you do not allow this to go forward. Thank you.

Frank and Rosalie Tadda
Olaloa retirees

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 10:24 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: silvabell01@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: hb1453opposition.doc

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shauna Bell
Organization: Individual
Address: Aiea Heights Drive Aiea, Hawaii
Phone: 808-485-1548
E-mail: silvabell01@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

I wish to support this testimony in opposition to HB 1453 coming on for hearing on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

In 1998, the question regarding the definition of marriage was put to the electorate of this state. The electorate at that time stated that the majority wanted marriage to be a union between a man and a woman and not between individuals of the same sex. Although supporters of the bill HB 1453 state that this bill does not create same-sex marriages, the bill in practical effect does create same-sex marriages.

The requirements for entering a civil union under the provisions of HB 1453 are practically identical to those for entering a marriage union. Additionally, the termination of civil unions is identical to the divorce provisions, thereby reinforcing the notion that the proposed civil unions are in fact identical to marriages.

To establish civil unions under HB 1453 equates them with marriages. To state that civil unions do not establish same-sex marriages is disingenuous at best, but is better categorized as lying and obfuscation.

Same-sex couples currently can establish reciprocal beneficiary relationships that afford them certain rights. If further rights are desired, an appropriate avenue is to broaden the scope of the rights available through the reciprocal beneficiary status and not by establishing an additional legal relationship that is identical to marriage but merely called by a different name.

If the legislature feels that the majority of the electorate is in support of same-sex marriage, then it has the opportunity to once again put the question to the public via ballot as it did in 1998. The electorate should be afforded the opportunity to voice its opinion via a ballot question as to whether the legislature should forsake its constitutional power to reserve marriage between a man and a woman. If at such time when the question is put to the electorate and the outcome is in favor of changing the definition of marriage, then, and only then, will it be appropriate for the legislature to enact such a bill as HB 1453 and merely amend Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 572 rather than create a supposedly different legal relationship that is only different in name alone.

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 11:43 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: krishara1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kris hara
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: krishara1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

It is important to me that there be a clear understanding of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, both at the state and federal level of government. I am not in favor of civil unions.

Thank you for your consideration.

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 2:55 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: forecharlee@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Webb, MD
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: forecharlee@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

We all know that discrimination is wrong. My marriage does not suffer from allowing the same rights to others. Let's put an end to legal bigotry. Mahalo.

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:20 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: newswireh@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesse ponce de leon
Organization: newswirehawaii
Address: 1541 kalakaua ave #1504 honolulu, hi
Phone: 808.955.0044
E-mail: newswireh@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:38 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: llach@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda E.F. Lach
Organization: Individual
Address: 6525 Kuamoo Road Kapaa HI 96746
Phone: 808-823-0011
E-mail: llach@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

I am not able to attend the hearing on hb1453 and sb232, but I want to register my strong support for these two bills. Please help to bring everyone in our community together. (BTW, I am a married women for 34 years, with children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild. I want everyone to be able to have the same benefits as I enjoy as a member of a family.)

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:58 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teri Heede
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:
CIVIL UNIONS = CIVIL RIGHTS

VOTE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

MAHALO

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 4:09 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: matrifkin28@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Rifkin
Organization: Individual
Address: Keaau, HI
Phone:
E-mail: matrifkin28@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

It is time to allow all people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, to be married to the person of their choice. It is not the government's call on who those two people can be...

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 4:40 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: alohabillw@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Waring
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: alohabillw@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

I strongly urge the Representatives to support the Civil Unions Bill and expedite it's transmission to the Governor for his signature. It is time for true equality in Hawaii.

Mahalo.

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 5:27 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: jordandachamp@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1453 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: Testimony on HB1453.pdf

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM HB1453

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jordan Kakugawa
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: jordandachamp@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL HB1453- RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT KEITH-ARAGON, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Jordan Kakugawa, I am a home-educated student in the tenth grade. I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB1453, which gives civil unions the same benefits as a married couple.

Ultimately, passing this bill will allow same-sex couples to have the same privileges as marriage and will become a stepping stone for same-sex marriage in Hawaii. As other states have shown, for example, Massachusetts(http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights_hiv-aids/aclu-massachusetts-welcomes-new-hampshire-civil-unions-law) and Vermont(http://healthvermont.gov/research/records/cv_reciprocity.aspx) that once civil unions bills were adopted, a bill to pass same-sex marriage followed.

Supporters of civil-unions claim that their goal is not same-sex marriage, but the evidence taken from other states(http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights_hiv-aids/aclu-massachusetts-welcomes-new-hampshire-civil-unions-law), shows that it is. The executive director of ACLU of Massachusetts, Carol Rose states, "*While we believe that civil unions are only a step toward the ultimate goal of marriage equality, it is heartening to see another state recognize that lesbian and gay couples need ways to protect one another and their families.*"

JORDAN KAKUGAWA

To the House Committee of JD

Testimony on HB1453

Page 2

I support the amendment of the Reciprocal Beneficiaries Act and I believe same-sex couples are entitled to benefits regarding tax advantages, health insurance and employment benefits, however, we should not have to redefine marriage in order for same-sex couples to have these benefits. Amending the Reciprocal Beneficiaries Act is the obvious answer to taking care of the needs of same-sex families, if this was indeed the purpose for passing a civil unions bill. Amending this act would also avoid the controversy from opponents of HB1453 who believe that the civil unions bill is in actuality a stepping stone to same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

As a young adult growing up in the state of Hawaii, I believe that "traditional family values" are the foundation to our society. I also believe that this bill threatens traditional marriage because the ultimate goal of proponents of this bill would in-fact be same-sex marriage.

I thank the committee for taking the time to read my testimony on HB1453 and I ask that you take into consideration that my opposition to this bill still represents the majority of people in our state, therefore I strongly ask you to oppose this bill relating to civil-unions.

JUDtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 2:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: jkealoha@ilwulocal142.org
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: 2011HB1453.rtf

Testimony for JUD 2/8/2011 2:15:00 PM SB232

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joanne Kealoha
Organization: ILWU Local 142
Address: 451 Atkinson Drive Honolulu, HI
Phone: 949-4161
E-mail: jkealoha@ilwulocal142.org
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Thank you for considering the ILWU's testimony on H.B. 1453 and S.B. 232.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Auditorium
Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 2:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 1453
RELATING TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 1453, which establishes civil unions and provides to civil union partners the benefits and obligations conferred upon a couple by marriage and provides for termination of civil unions through the judicial system.

We understand this bill to make changes to each section of the statutes that would be affected by the establishment of civil unions. Whatever vehicle is used, the ILWU supports civil unions as providing all the equal right to enter into legally recognized relationships that afford civil union partners the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities that spouses in a marriage enjoy.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 1453. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.