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**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 11:00 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** [josh@equalityhawaii.org](mailto:josh@equalityhawaii.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR135 on 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** Testimony In Support HCR135 HD1.doc; HCR135 Amended.doc

Testimony for HUS 3/28/2011 9:00:00 AM HCR135

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Josh Frost  
Organization: Equality Hawaii  
Address:  
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Submitted on: 3/27/2011

Comments:

**LATE  
Testimony**

# EQUALITY HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2011  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTENT OF HCR135 PROPOSED HD1

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

My name is Josh Frost I, the Legislative Committee Chair of Equality Hawai'i, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization. We support the intent of the proposed House Draft for House Concurrent Resolution 135 and applaud the committee for hearing this resolution.

We do, however, feel strongly the need to point out that while addressing discrimination in speech is a commendable endeavor to undertake, it is important to acknowledge that there is also a need to address the root causes of discriminatory speech. It is an atmosphere of legal and social inequality that fosters hate speech and violence and only once this atmosphere is address directly will we truly begin to tackle the root causes of hate speech.

It is with this in mind that we respectfully propose amendments, which are attached to our testimony, to HCR135.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Josh Frost  
Legislative Committee Chair  
Equality Hawai'i

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.C.R. NO.

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011  
STATE OF HAWAII

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ALOHA SPIRIT OF ALL PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII BY DISPLAYING MUTUAL RESPECT AND AFFECTION TOWARDS OTHERS WITH NO OBLIGATION IN RETURN, WITHOUT USE OF DEROGATORY WORDS WITH REGARD TO A PERSON'S RACE, GENDER, DISABILITY, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

WHEREAS, the "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, "Aloha" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "Aloha" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknown of that which and of whom which we falsely presume to be unessential to our collective existence<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, to denigrate another person to elevate oneself displays hatred, fear, and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, racial slurs, derogatory, hateful and demeaning words, used to degrade and hurt people, based on race, gender, disability or sexual orientation may also lead to violent action and hate crimes;

WHEREAS, legal and social inequality is also a form of denigration that corrupts the meaning of "Aloha" and gives us permission to speak and act with violence towards others because of their race, gender, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, the "Spirit of Aloha" represents people who are fortified by humility, love, respect, and kindness, with many voices and issues, sometimes different views, where individuals unite for the common good, where people can achieve prosperity and security without bigotry; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that all people of the State of Hawaii are urged to continue in following the "Aloha Spirit" and eliminate derogatory words toward people because of their race, gender, disability or sexual orientation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is urged that people follow a general boycott from the purchasing of any product which uses hateful words to intimidate or degrade people based on race, gender, disability or sexual orientation, in any form be heavily promoted and practiced by wholesalers, retailers, and consumers throughout the state; and

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<sup>1</sup> HRS Sec. 5-7.5

<sup>2</sup> HRS Sec. 5-7.5(a)

# H.C.R. NO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Governor of the State of Hawaii, Director of Human Services, Executive Director of the Honey Brown Hope Foundation, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Hawaii Chapter, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, the Co-Chairs of Equality Hawaii, and the Chair of the State House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_