

LATE TESTIMONY

April 13, 2011

HCR 205 and HR 177: Requesting the Department of Health to Establish a Task Force Regarding the Implementation of Act 1, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011

Testimony in SUPPORT

Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Room: 308

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair - Finance Committee
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair - Finance Committee
Members of the Finance Committee

From: Tambry R. Young, Native Hawaiian
Small Business Owner, Tidy Up Gang, LLC
President, Citizens for Equal Rights

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of HCR 205 and HR 177 asking for the establishment of a Task Force regarding the implementation of civil unions.

On February 23, 2011 civil unions was signed into law by Governor Abercrombie with an effective date of January 1, 2012. This was a momentous day for Suzanne and I who have been in a committed relationship for the past thirty years and raising our 11 year old daughter. We have been dedicated to this issue for the past three years and are very grateful that the legislature took the bold step to provide equality to all families here in Hawaii.

We feel it is important to continue to support efforts that ensure all the rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities are granted to those who enter into a civil union. Therefore we support the establishment of a task force to assist with the implementation of Act 1 and would like to offer some additional questions for consideration by the task force:

Questions for Consideration by HCR 205 Task Force on Act 1 (2011)

1. What sort of certification would an agent issuing a civil union license have to make under section -5(3)? How would an agent issuing a civil union license collect completed civil union certificates from solemnizers?
2. Should the Department of Health provide a standard form of affidavit under section -8(b) for civil union partners to correct a situation when a solemnizer fails to return their civil union certificate?
3. Will the Department of Health require people who fill out a marriage license application to indicate if they are in a civil union?
4. Will the Department of Health require all private marriage license agents under HRS section 572-5(a) to also issue civil union licenses?
5. Besides the forms identified in HCR 205, what other forms will be needed?
6. Should the Department of Health include in its forms a specific effective date for termination of a reciprocal beneficiary, instead of having applicants wait to receive their proof of termination certificate from the Department (since RB termination is needed before getting a civil union license)?
7. Should the Department of Health revise its procedures for terminating a reciprocal beneficiary so that the couple can both terminate the RB relationship and obtain a civil union license on the same day?

Once again, thank you on behalf of our family and the many other families that will be impacted by Act 1 and for allowing me to testify in support of this resolution today.

Wedding Officiant Honolulu **LATE TESTIMONY**

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Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 10:00 AM
Room 308, State Capitol
Testimony of Wedding Officiant Honolulu
To the House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair

Testimony to SUPPORT HR 177 / HCR 205, Relating to Civil Unions

To Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Finance Committee: Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Wedding Officiant Honolulu.

Wedding Officiant Honolulu testifies in SUPPORT of HR 177 and HCR 205.

My name is Vincent Browne, and I am the owner and operator of Wedding Officiant Honolulu. HB232 which was passed by this legislature, and signed in to law By Governor Abercrombie, establishing Civil Unions in Hawaii, represents a positive move in the direction of equal rights for all. House Resolutions 177 and 205 represent a sensible means of ensuring that this important legislation is implemented as quickly and easily as possible by establishing a task force to review logistical, and other concerns.

As the owner and operator of a company which provides wedding officiant services, and as a person who personally officiates about 300 weddings each year, I look forward to servicing the additional couples that Civil Unions will provide. As such, I have a vested economic interest in ensuring that Civil Unions are implemented in a smooth a fashion as is possible.

Speaking as a private citizen, I was distressed by the fact that my husband and I had to fly about 10,000 miles round trip to Massachusetts for our own wedding service, when I, myself, provide the same service to hundreds of opposite sex couples every year, right here in Hawaii. I want to ensure that other same sex couples like my husband and I who want to enjoy this privilege right here in Hawaii have simple and immediate access to this service as soon as the Civil Union law takes effect.

I believe that the establishment of this task force will be of great help in achieving this goal. For these reasons I humbly ask that you approve House Resolutions 177 and 205.

Mahalo,
Vincent Browne

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Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony to **SUPPORT HR 177 / HCR 205, Relating to Civil Unions**

To Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Finance Committee: Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Marcia Linville, and I would like to voice my support for House Resolutions 177 and 205 to establish a task force to review the implementation of the Civil Unions law. I am a citizen who is dedicated to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for all people. I believe that the Civil Unions bill which was passed by this legislature and signed into law by Governor Abercrombie is a big step toward achieving that goal. I believe that it is important that careful review is given to the process of implementing this important legislation, so that all citizens who wish to enter a Civil Union are able to do so as quickly and easily as possible. I believe that establishing a task force to review this process is a prudent way to ensure this gets done.

For these reasons, I humbly ask that you vote in support of House Resolutions 177 and 205.

Mahalo,

Marcia Linville