

SB232

TESTIMONY



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Testimony on S.B. 232 Relating to Civil Unions

Governor Neil Abercrombie

SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

January 25, 2011

10 a.m. Room 016

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

Civil unions respect our diversity, protect people's privacy and reinforce our core values of equality and aloha.

For several years now, the State Legislature has been working hard on legislation relating to civil unions. I commend you for hearing this matter, and continue to support your efforts to protect people's civil rights as we enter into this new legislative session.

I am hopeful that the legislative process will bring us together in the spirit of openness and collaboration to develop legislation that resolves the issues and ensures that all people of Hawaii will be treated equally. I look forward to signing such a measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony.



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 3226
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801
PHONE: (808) 586-0255
FAX: (808) 586-0231

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, January 25th, 2011
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 016

Testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 232**, Relating to Civil Unions

Dear Chair Hee, Vice- Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 232; a bill that grants the rights, responsibilities, benefits and protections currently only available to opposite gender couples.

Two years ago the legislature opened serious discussions on this issue. There has been a complete and robust debate in our community and all sides have been given the opportunity to express their views. During this time, the Iowa Supreme Court found that same gender couples should be granted equal rights under their state's law and only a month ago the Illinois Legislature extended equal rights via civil unions to same gender couples.

There is no compelling reason our state should not extend basic rights and responsibilities to everyone. I support this legislation for the thousands of couples in Hawaii and their families who want the same protections that other citizens enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2380
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Comm. on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016
Testimony: Support of SB232
Relating to Civil Unions

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Comm. on Judiciary & Labor:

I submit testimony in my capacity as a Member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education because the legislation of equality or discrimination directly impacts our students, employees and their families.

Your State Board of Education explicitly prohibits bullying, harassment and discrimination against students and employees based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Despite the Board's proactive administrative rules, policies and guidelines, bullying and harassment against gay, lesbian and bisexual youth is on the rise.

When completing the 2009 CDC-funded survey inquiring whether they "had been harassed because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the last 12 months before the survey," 14.6% of Hawaii's middle school students indicated "yes". This was a 42% increase since 2007.

What was happening in our State between 2007 and 2009? What kind of homophobic, vitriolic rhetoric infiltrated our communities and schools to subject our 12, 13 and 14 year-olds to this heightened level of harassment? And Hawaii is still number one in the nation for highest percentage suicidal ideology among high school students: 18.9%

I urge this Committee to continue on the road toward equality, pass civil unions now so we can put this incendiary topic to rest and spare our students from the collateral damage of this verbal harassment - disguised debate.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Coco Iwamoto".

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq.
State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large

Linden Joesting

From: Todd Hairgrove [toddhairgrove@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 7:34 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232

I Oppose this Bill and i will be at the Hearing

From: Honolulu Pride [honoluluprideparade@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 9:36 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 - Support
Attachments: SB232Jan25Testimony

Aloha,

Attached is my testimony in support of Senate Bill 232 on behalf of Honolulu Pride.

I will be present to to give verbal testimony.

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

--
2011 Honolulu Pride - Saturday June 4, 2011

Celebrating 21 years of PRIDE in paradise!

Get YOUR official Honolulu LGBT Pride Gear here - <http://www.cafepress.com/HnlPrideParade>

PFLAG - Oahu is the fiscal sponsor - www.pflagoahu.org

Follow us on-line at <http://www.honoluluprideparade.org> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/honolululgtprideparade>

If you received this e-mail as a forward and would like to be put on our e-list please send us an e-mail at honoluluprideparade@gmail.com with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Then include all the contact information you wish to share with us. We do not sell or lend our e-mail list to any group or individual.

HONOLULU PRIDE

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF PRIDE IN PARADISE

92-954 MAKAKILO DR. #71, KAPOLEI, HI 96707

PHONE: 808-672-9050 FAX: 808-672-6347

WWW.HONOLULUPRIDEPARADE.ORG – HONOLULUPRIDEPARADE@GMAIL.COM

January 20, 2011

Tuesday, January 20, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

RE: Senate Bill 232: Civil Unions - STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Hee and fellow committee members,

On behalf of the Honolulu Pride committee we ask that you pass Senate Bill 232.

Civil Unions will help bring protection to Hawaii's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

This has been a long path to get to this point and the people of Hawai'i spoke loud and clear in November. We had a choice between a candidate that supports equality for the LGBT community and one that does not. Governor Abercrombie won by 17 points and he supports equality for the LGBT community.

Please follow this by passing Senate Bill 232.

Mahalo,

«GreetingLine»

Chair

From: David Robins [hawaiiguys@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 8:17 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 CIVIL UNIONS

Aloha,

The time has come to pass SB232 and put civil unions in place.

My partner and I have been together 27 years and do not have the same rights and protections afforded other couples. This is not right and the time has come to be fair and give all people equal rights under the law. If something should happen to one of us, we are at tremendous risk and could suffer many consequences and financial loss. We could potentially lose all that we have built together.

Please pass SB232 immediately and without delay.

Mahalo for your kokua,

DAVID ROBINS, RA
"The Dream Team"
Fine Homes Specialist
PRUDENTIAL LOCATIONS, LLC
Diamond Head Office
614 Kapahulu Ave., Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
(808) 381-3283 Cell
David.Robins@PruHawaii.com

Sent from my iPhone...with Aloha!

From: Sally Parker [sparker@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 9:37 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions

My husband and I are strongly against Civil unions in the state of Hawaii and we wish to express my opposition.

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M to completion
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Sally and Donald Parker

From: Alice Nishihira [kuaigrandma@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 10:00 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

As a mother of five and grandmother of eight, and a voter for many, many years, I would like to ask that you DO NOT allow this SB 232, civil union bill to pass and become law. God's law says marriage is between a man and a woman. Do we have authority to change God's law? Please do not ruin/damage this moral image for our future generation. Thank you. alice nishihira

From: Patrick Waring [pwaring@hpu.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 10:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.
Attachments: marriage-equality.pdf

Dear Senators,

Thank you so much for moving on Civil Unions as quickly as possible. I am a Faculty Member in Psychology with Military Campus Programs at Hawaii Pacific University. Although I have no immediate interest in marrying or joining in a civil union, I am quite concerned at how the denying of civil rights is affecting children. I personally know several children who were ejected from their parent's houses because they were perceived as gay or transgendered and either exploited or rejected by their parents or guardians. While I knew them as adolescents, I know the majority have either died, were killed or are currently imprisoned. I say the majority, because I cannot say all simply because 2 or 3 have just disappeared. These were not bad kids, but kids exposed to prostitution, drugs, gangs, criminals, and adult exploiters simply because of some families culturally approved use of gay, lesbian and transgendered children as income earners as prostitutes and drug dealers and others rejection of these children as non-normal. While professional ethics prevent me from disclosing more, this happens at all levels of society, one was from KPT, one was from Hawaii Kai, one from Waipahu, one from Waikiki, a couple from Manoa, and a couple from Makiki. One I learned was in prison because he was featured from prison on his parents television show.

Normalizing gayness by making it simply another way of expressing oneself will begin to change attitudes, which hopefully will end these issues. Nationwide, over 40% of homeless people under 18 years of age are GLBTQ. Hawaii I know, from person experience, is no exception to this horrible condition.

The impact on the children of parents who happen to be gay, lesbian, or transgendered, and there are many children who fit this description, will also work to prevent harm to these children while extending legal protections to these children that all children should enjoy.

While I feel strongly about this issue both for children of LGBTQ parents, and for LGBTQ children, and for the increase in stable homes civil unions will provide for some foster children and adopted children, I am not alone in the Psychological community. I have attached a brief point by point paper from the APA's Government Relations Office entitled Marriage Equality and LGBTQ Health. I have also attached it as a .pdf format document. It reads as follows:

“There is no scientific basis for the assertion that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are not fit to marry or to become parents of healthy and well-adjusted children (Herek, 2006; Kurdek, 2004; Peplau & Fingerhut, 2007).

Marriage bestows substantial psychosocial and health benefits to individuals, due to the moral, economic, and social support to married couples. The denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples, therefore, adversely affects the health and well-being of the individuals involved, as well as their families and friends (Herdt & Kertzner, 2006).

Recent empirical evidence illustrating the harmful psychological effect of policies restricting marriage rights for same-sex couples is discussed below.

Findings

— Researchers have consistently shown that gay men and lesbians exposed to the stigma of homosexuality have a higher risk of experiencing distress and adverse psychological outcomes (Peplau & Fingerhut, 2007).

— According to a quantitative study with more than 1,500 lesbian, gay, and bisexual participants, living in a U.S. State where same-sex marriage is outlawed was *directly* related to chronic social stress and psychological problems, and *not* due to pre-existing mental health issues or other factors (Rostosky, Riggle, Horne, & Miller, 2009).

— Beyond the negative effect of marriage restrictions for gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals, new research evidence indicates that the families of origin and allies of sexual minorities may suffer from some of the same serious negative physical and mental health consequences experienced by their loved ones (Arm,

Horne, and Levitt, 2009).

→ Children raised by same-sex couples are equivalent in their psychological adjustment, cognitive abilities, and social functioning to children of heterosexual partners (Fulcher et al., 2006; Tasker, 2005).

→ Being denied the right to marry reinforces the stigma associated with a minority sexual identity, and can particularly undermine the healthy development of a well-adjusted emotional and social attachment style among adolescents and young adults (Herdt & Boxer, 1993).

→ Emerging longitudinal evidence suggests that same-sex couples in legal unions are more likely to remain in a committed relationship, i.e., a legalized relationship status may positively impact relationship longevity over time (Balsam et al., 2008; Kurdek, 2004).

Recommendations

Scientific research provides no evidence that would justify discrimination against same-sex partners and their families. In its 2004 resolution on sexual orientation and marriage, APA strongly supports policy and legal decisions that support the health and well-being of same-sex couples, their children, and their communities. Specifically, APA recommends:

→ Adopting initiatives that support legal access to civil marriage and all its associated rights, benefits and privileges for same-sex couples.

→ Funding and evaluation of further scientific studies that can enlighten and be utilized in policy development concerning sexual orientation and marriage.

→ Efforts to increase the dissemination of empirical research to inform the U.S. population and policy makers regarding marriage equality issues.

Marriage Equality and LGBT Health

For more information, please contact Jutta Tobias, Ph.D., in the Public Interest Government Relations Office at (202) 336-5668 or jtobias@apa.org.

Arm, J., Horne, & Levitt, H. (2009). Negotiating connection to GLBT experience: Family members' experience of anti-GLBT movements and policies. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *56*, 82-96.

Balsam, K. F., Beauchaine, T. P., Rothblum, E. D., & Solomon, S. E. (2008). Three-year follow-up of same-sex couples who had civil unions in Vermont, same-sex couples not in civil unions, and heterosexual married couples. *Developmental Psychobiology*, *44*, 102-116.

Fulcher, M., Sutfin, E. L., Chan, R. W., Scheib, J. E., and Patterson, C. J. (2006). Lesbian mothers and their children: Findings from the Contemporary Families Study. In A. Omoto & H. Kurtzman (Eds.), *Sexual Orientation and Mental Health: Examining Identity and Development in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People* (pp. 281-299). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Herdt, G. H., & Boxer, A. M. (1993). *Children of Horizons: How gay and lesbian teens are leading a new way out of the closet*.

Boston: Beacon Press.

Herdt, G., & Kertzner, R. (2006). I do, but I can't: The impact of marriage denial on the mental health and sexual citizenship of lesbians and gay men in the United States. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, *3*(1), 33-49.

Herek, G. M. (2006). Legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the United States: A social science perspective. *American Psychologist*, *61*(6), 607-621.

Kurdek, L. A. (2004). Are gay and lesbian cohabiting couples really different from heterosexual married couples? *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *66*, 880-901.

Peplau, L. A., & Fingerhut, A. W. (2007). The close relationships of lesbians and gay men. *Annual Review of Psychology*, *58*, 405-424.

Rostosky, S. S., Riggie, E. D. B., Horne, S. G., & Miller, A. D. (2009). Marriage Amendments and Psychological Distress in Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Adults. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, *56*, 56-66.

Tasker, F. (2005) Lesbian mothers, gay fathers and their children: A review. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, *26*, 224-240.

For more information, please contact Jutta Tobias, Ph.D., in the Public Interest Government Relations Office at (202) 336-5668 or jtobias@apa.org."

Again, I thank you for your consideration of Civil Unions so early in the year.

Yours in hope,

Patrick J.S. Waring, Ed.D., J.D., LL.M.

Faculty in Psychology with Military Campus Programs

Member APA, IL, CA and NY Bars, Equality Hawaii, Pride Alliance Hawaii, Integrity Hawaii, HRC, ACLU, St. Clement's Parish

Hawaii Pacific University

1166 Fort Street Mall, Rm 203

Military Campus Office

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-744-1858

808-221-8770

pwaring@hpu.edu



APA Public Interest Government Relations Office

Marriage Equality and LGBT Health

There is no scientific basis for the assertion that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are not fit to marry or to become parents of healthy and well-adjusted children (Herek, 2006; Kurdek, 2004; Peplau & Fingerhut, 2007).

Marriage bestows substantial psychosocial and health benefits to individuals, due to the moral, economic, and social support to married couples. The denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples, therefore, adversely affects the health and well-being of the individuals involved, as well as their families and friends (Herdt & Kertzner, 2006).

Recent empirical evidence illustrating the harmful psychological effect of policies restricting marriage rights for same-sex couples is discussed below.

Findings

- Researchers have consistently shown that gay men and lesbians exposed to the stigma of homosexuality have a higher risk of experiencing distress and adverse psychological outcomes (Peplau & Fingerhut, 2007).
- According to a quantitative study with more than 1,500 lesbian, gay, and bisexual participants, living in a U.S. State where same-sex marriage is outlawed was *directly* related to chronic social stress and psychological problems, and *not* due to pre-existing mental health issues or other factors (Rostosky, Riggle, Horne, & Miller, 2009).
- Beyond the negative effect of marriage restrictions for gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals, new research evidence indicates that the families of origin and allies of sexual minorities may suffer from some of the same serious negative physical and mental health consequences experienced by their loved ones (Arm, Horne, and Levitt, 2009).
- Children raised by same-sex couples are equivalent in their psychological adjustment, cognitive abilities, and social functioning to children of heterosexual partners (Fulcher et al., 2006; Tasker, 2005).
- Being denied the right to marry reinforces the stigma associated with a minority sexual identity, and can particularly undermine the healthy development of a well-adjusted emotional and social attachment style among adolescents and young adults (Herdt & Boxer, 1993).
- Emerging longitudinal evidence suggests that same-sex couples in legal unions are more likely to remain in a committed relationship, i.e., a legalized relationship status may positively impact relationship longevity over time (Balsam et al., 2008; Kurdek, 2004).

Recommendations

Scientific research provides no evidence that would justify discrimination against same-sex partners and their families. In its 2004 resolution on sexual orientation and marriage, APA strongly supports policy and legal decisions that support the health and well-being of same-sex couples, their children, and their communities.

Specifically, APA recommends:

- Adopting initiatives that support legal access to civil marriage and all its associated rights, benefits and privileges for same-sex couples.
- Funding and evaluation of further scientific studies that can enlighten and be utilized in policy development concerning sexual orientation and marriage.
- Efforts to increase the dissemination of empirical research to inform the U.S. population and policy makers regarding marriage equality issues.

References

- Arm, J., Horne, & Levitt, H. (2009). Negotiating connection to GLBT experience: Family members' experience of anti-GLBT movements and policies. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 56*, 82-96.
- Balsam, K. F., Beauchaine, T. P., Rothblum, E. D., & Solomon, S. E. (2008). Three-year follow-up of same-sex couples who had civil unions in Vermont, same-sex couples not in civil unions, and heterosexual married couples. *Developmental Psychobiology, 44*, 102-116.
- Fulcher, M., Sutfin, E. L., Chan, R. W., Scheib, J. E., and Patterson, C. J. (2006). Lesbian mothers and their children: Findings from the Contemporary Families Study. In A. Omoto & H. Kurtzman (Eds.), *Sexual Orientation and Mental Health: Examining Identity and Development in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People* (pp. 281-299). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Herd, G. H., & Boxer, A. M. (1993). *Children of Horizons: How gay and lesbian teens are leading a new way out of the closet*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Herd, G., & Kertzner, R. (2006). I do, but I can't: The impact of marriage denial on the mental health and sexual citizenship of lesbians and gay men in the United States. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy, 3*(1), 33-49.
- Herek, G. M. (2006). Legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the United States: A social science perspective. *American Psychologist, 61*(6), 607-621.
- Kurdek, L. A. (2004). Are gay and lesbian cohabiting couples really different from heterosexual married couples? *Journal of Marriage and Family, 66*, 880-901.
- Peplau, L. A., & Fingerhut, A. W. (2007). The close relationships of lesbians and gay men. *Annual Review of Psychology, 58*, 405-424.
- Rostosky, S. S., Riggle, E. D. B., Horne, S. G., & Miller, A. D. (2009). Marriage Amendments and Psychological Distress in Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Adults. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 56*, 56-66.
- Tasker, F. (2005) Lesbian mothers, gay fathers and their children: A review. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 26*, 224-240.

From: William Albinger [billalbinger@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 11:09 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB 232

Dear Mr Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding hearings on SB232, especially so early in this Session. I am the Rev. William J. Albinger, Jr. and am the Rector of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina where I have served for the past six years. In addition to being a priest, I am: 65 years old, a director of several civic non-profits on Maui, a former corporate lawyer, a Vietnam veteran (combat engineers), and a graduate of Yale ('67), U. of PA Law School ('72) and Drew Theological Seminary ('02).

In addition to the above, I am gay man in a 22 year committed relationship to Mark LeDoux. Mark is very supportive of my work at Holy Innocents and is himself active in many non-profit civic groups on Maui. For our relationship not to be recognized legally in Hawaii is a violation of our equal protection and rights as law abiding productive citizens of Hawaii. For people to say that our relationship is a threat to the family or anyone else is, in my opinion, beyond reason.

The legislation you are considering impacts the daily lives and fortunes of your constituents. Given the tax, inheritance and other consequences of SB 232, passage or rejection of this Bill in Hawaii will determine whether or not we can plan on retiring here. As a former corporate executive, I can assure you that it impacts the decision of gay and lesbian doctors, professors, teachers and others with needed skills on whether or not they will come to work in Hawaii Nei.

More dramatically, it can be a matter of life and death. A neighbor down Front Street was denied being able to ride in the ambulance with his long term partner who suffered a heart attack, By the time he got to Maui Memorial Hospital and explained who he was, his partner had died. Is this common decency, let alone common sense?

Most of the opposition to this bill, like HB444 will be coming from religious groups based on their beliefs or reading of Scripture. Passage of SB232 will in no way impinge on their beliefs nor affect what they do or don't do in their churches. While some faiths oppose civil unions other religious bodies are in favor. At the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii held in October, 2009, 80% of the clergy and almost 75% of the laity voted to support HB444 and asked our Bishop to speak in favor of it.

Again I'd like to thank you for taking this up now. Perhaps we can pass it and move onto other pressing issues that affect all of us.

In closing, I would like to ask each of you to put the shoes Mark and I walk in on your feet. Before we accepted the call to serve Holy Innocents we were legally married in our home state of Massachusetts and had the same rights and obligations as our neighbors. We were treated equally under the law. Upon arriving in Hawaii, we became legal strangers to one another. How would you feel if that happened to you and your spouse if you moved to another state? What arguments would make that treatment acceptable to you?

Respectfully submitted,

the Rev. William J. Abinger, Jr.

From: Edna Holdeman [eehold@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 11:38 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions Bill (SB 232)

Dear Sir, Madame:

I'm writing concerning :
Civil Unions Bill (SB232)
January 25,2011
Conference Rm 016
State Capitol
415 So. Beretania St.

I am opposed to the bill which would extend the same rights , benefits, protections and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union which takes effect 1/1/2012.

Please, please think about how as far back as Adam and Eve unions were of man and woman, children deserve to grow with a male and female model. Please please think about the future of our state of Hawaii and vote NO for Civil Unions Bill SB 232.

Aloha,
Edna Holdeman

From: Cynthia Fritts [fritts@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 11:43 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 hearing on Jan 25,2011 10am

DATE:
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME:
10:00 A.M to completion
PLACE:
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimonial on Civil Unions Bill
SB232

I am the sister of a gay man and I am a business owner in the State of Hawaii. I believe civil unions providing equal rights and protects under the law is of critical importance to the State of Hawaii. I have witnessed how discrimination and homophobia have affected my family and many of my friends and putting a law on the books giving equal rights to our GLBT ohana will be a historic step forward in ending discrimination in our state.

As a business owner passing the civil unions bill will assure a much needed influx of business to our state by extending a message of aloha to all friends, family and members of the GLBT community.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Cynthia P. Fritts
626 West Hind Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96821
808-781-1741

From: Sylvia Partridge [sylpartridge@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 11:38 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Bill # SB232 January 25 2011 Hearing at 10 am

In regard to the January 25 10 am hearing for Bill # SB232:

I am a resident of Hawaii and believe that a civil unions bill is necessary to make a reality of the promise of equality for all. Everything we do to promote tolerance and equality will make us healthier, stronger and happier.

I support the civil unions bill.

Sylvia Partridge
3800 Kamehameha Rd., #22
Princeville, HI 96722

From: Julie Uyeno-Pidot [julie.uyenopidot@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 12:38 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232

Dear Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Julie Uyeno-Pidot and I am writing to you in support of SB232. As a married, heterosexual mother of two young children, I may not seem like someone who has a vested interest in civil unions, but I do. I am committed to living my life as equitably as possible and raising my children to do the same. I do not want them to live in a world where equal rights are denied to groups of people who differ from the so-called norm. While people should be allowed to practice whatever religion they see fit, these beliefs should not be used to dictate social policy. Allowing civil unions will not weaken traditional marriage. That would be like saying the political landscape of the United States has been weakened by granting women the right to vote. Equal access legitimizes social constructs through increased input and participation. Let's not fight change by resorting to oppression. If we truly want to maintain our image of the Aloha state, we need to extend that welcoming spirit to everyone, regardless of sexual preference.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Julie Uyeno-Pidot
3626 Crater Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: David Lane [alohaguy@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 1:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for: SB232: Hearing date and time--January 25, 10 am

Aloha, I strongly support SB232 to grant civil unions to all Hawaiians. Hawaii has a long history of fairness and equality. It was a first state to include in its constitution non-discrimination based on sexual orientation. It's the right thing to do....ALL Hawaiians--regardless of who they choose to love--deserve the same rights and privileges.

Please support and pass this law.

David Lane
4160 Omao Road
Koloa, HI 96756

From: Colby Sato [Colby.Sato@students.olin.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 1:40 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Hello, my name is Colby Sato. I am a first-year majoring in Engineering at College.

I support civil unions because I want to feel accepted in Hawaii, my home state.

Hawaii is a land of beauty and generosity. It is generous with warm days, delicious food, and beautiful landscapes, from Mauka to Makai.

However, our paradise has flaws in its laws. Our laws do not express the Aloha that we from the islands value. There is no shaka in the law that says that queer people are accepted.

Please, let us further Hawaii as a paradise.

Let us write love and trust of our neighbors into our laws.

Mahalo,
Colby

From: Jonathan Gillentine [jmgillentine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 1:52 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: support for civil unions

Senators,

I am a teacher of children with special needs who has served in Hawai`i for 30 years. I have direct knowledge of how those who are considered different can be mistreated, bullied, and ostracized by others who feel they are better than those they choose to oppress. It is high time that we make our island community a place where our keiki can grow and achieve. Passing a civil unions bill will help to make that a reality as it will serve to help eliminate the use of hurtful words, used both to inflict pain on specific individuals and to make general statements about how people behave: "That's so gay!"

Our nation has lagged behind others in the world who have overcome social prejudices concerning sexual orientation either have legalized or recognize same gender marriage or civil unions, including most of western Europe, and other countries, including Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, South Africa, New Zealand, Israel, Canada, and parts of Australia. Certainly with the repeal of our nation's ineffective policy against homosexuals serving openly in the military, we are seeing a new direction in social policy. Please help our state maintain its rightful place in promoting harmony, acceptance, and diversity within a democratic, pluralistic society.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha no,

Jonathan Gillentine
Kaneohe

From: Steve A. Johnson [steveajmn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 1:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please support SB232.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Steve A Johnson. I am a resident of Kaneohe HI, and an employee with the state Department of Education. I thank you for your time and consideration for SB232.

I support SB232, and encourage your support as well.

My same sex partner and I will celebrate our 12 year anniversary this approaching July. We have lived together sharing domestic responsibilities and commitments for the last eight years. We have purchased a house together, use joint financial accounts, and volunteer in local communities together. Our extended families and friends love us and respect our relationship as one that is "for life". We love each other very much, and as any other committed couple we want to use every resource available to us to support each other as we live out our lives. We, however, as a same sex couple, are selectively restricted from using many of the resources provided to same sex couples by our state and country to do just that.

In our case there are medical, tax, employment, and death benefits that we need full access to for each other. Without these the trajectory of our joint and individual well being and financial security is lowered, weakened, even injured.

We simply wish to be governed equitably. It is imperative that we and other same sex Hawaii residents need not jump through unfair legal hoops and financial expenditures to try to simulate the privileges and benefits opposite sex couples in Hawaii can access with relative ease.

Darren, my partner, and I believe it's fair to request equal representation. Please use aloha and civil conscience as you weigh the merits of SB232. Thank you for listening. Please support SB232.

Sincerely, Steve A Johnson

Steve A Johnson
45-995 Waialele Rd. Unit 20
Kaneohe, HI 96744
steveajmn@yahoo.com
808-673-3337

From: Matthew Prior [prior@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 2:42 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB232 Hearing on January 25, 10am

I am an educator and am saddened by the lack of protection for gay and lesbian couples. The equal treatment of gay and lesbian couples is a human issue, not a political or religious one. A civil unions bill is needed to protect basic human rights. I know many people that left Hawaii because of the lack of legal protection for gay and lesbian couples. I urge you to pass this measure and treat this state's citizens as deserving equal treatment and protection under the law.

From: Angie Corpuz [dakc95@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 2:59 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Corrected testimony for SB232

Below testimony was already submitted but without my personal information.

Testimony Opposing SB232
Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:00 A.M to completion

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. Takes effect 1/1/2012.

I would like to respectfully ask that the committee members **not approve** SB 232 Civil Unions. For the reasons that follow:

You can't talk about civil unions without talking about same-sex marriage because there really isn't any difference. The goal is the same. This civil union proposal is an attempt to legitimize gay marriage simply by using another title.

Every time a civil union bill has been imposed on a state, demands for same-sex "marriage" have followed.

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. As we've seen in California, not even constitutional amendments protecting marriage are safe from activist courts.

The Hawaii Supreme Court has already ruled that same sex marriage is not a civil right

The Supreme Court of Hawaii stated in 1993, "We do not believe that a right to same sex marriage is rooted in the traditions ... of our people... Neither do we believe that a right to same sex marriage is implicit ...

Accordingly we hold that the applicant couples do not have a fundamental right to same sex marriage..."
(State v. Lewin 1993)

Marriage is not an American invention. It has existed as an institution since the beginning of civilization, and thus transcends our modern laws. Every long-standing society has viewed marriage as a union of male and female. Studies of previous civilizations reveal that when societies deviate from the standard of marriage as the foundation of its society, they inevitably deteriorate and eventually disintegrate. [See J. D. Unwin, *Sexual Regulations and Human Behavior* (London: Williams & Norgate, 1933)]

Traditional marriage and family should not be undermined. The data are clear and irrefutable - children do best in stable, healthy homes with both a mom and dad. Hawaii's children must have healthy examples. Today with 25 million children fatherless, it is callous to the extreme to be rewriting our most basic marriage laws to suit the desires of adults.

The people have spoken. In 1998, the people of Hawaii sent a clear message that marriage in Hawaii must remain between one man and one woman. Civil unions are just another attempt to thwart the will of the people.

Hawaii already has a law that gives many of the benefits similar to marriage benefits to couples of the same – sex (Reciprocal Beneficiaries)

If current benefits are deemed insufficient, they should be increased under the existing law.
law.

Please do not approve SB232 because in actuality it is a vote against traditional marriage between a man and women. An institution that should be upheld and respected for the good of our state, families and children.

Angela Corpuz, 178 Upper Kimo Dr. Kula Hi 96790

dakc95@earthlink.net

I will not be present

From: emynent [emynent@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 3:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232
Attachments: --static--liam_crowdsurfer_bottom.gif

Mark Yasuhara
98-288 Kaonohi St., #3902
Aiea, HI 96701

January 22, 2011

Judiciary Committee

JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha,

I am a 66 years old retired, evangelical Christian minister. My wife and I have two beautiful daughters, both of whom are lesbians. As committed Christians, we were all part of an exclusively heterosexual life-style. It was not until they were well into adult-hood that our daughters individually accepted their homosexuality.

However, long before they came to this realization, my wife and I had already opened our hearts to a God and Christ Who's love and acceptance of all things was truly unconditional and without exception, and that to judge one person more worthy of respect than another – for whatever reasons, was to, in effect, play God to that person.

Civil rights, including civil unions, are basic recognitions of respect – of acceptance and worth. In denying civil unions – and the very important rights involved - on the basis of sex – or worse, implied religious beliefs, we have come dangerously close to playing God. We have been wrong to disrespect anyone based on their sexuality.

Our laws are what make us civil; they must be the reflection of an evolving civilization, a people growing in their understanding of what is right and righteous. If a law is no longer applicable because of our increased

understanding, then that law must be changed.

Sen. Hee's SB232 is that vehicle for change.

Mahalo nui for your good service to all of us.

Mark Yasuhara

From: Vener George Rayo [fr3shkid@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 3:26 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232

My name is Vener George Rayo from Kalihi and I am in favor of passing SB232.

When I first come out to my family in high school, I was given the cold shoulder and felt like I didn't belong. It was a terrible feeling. Even though my family treated me in such a way, in time they came to realization that I am still the same person that they had always loved and changed their views about homosexuals.

If my family can come to this realization so can the rest of humanity. Unfortunately, the discrimination does not end there, and many still experience discrimination for being gay. Even worse, LGBT families are not given basic civil rights and legal protection under Hawaii law. Passing SB232 is important not only to push social progress away from homophobia, but also to provide the simple legal protection that LGBT families need.

Thank you very much to the committee for considering SB232. It would mean a lot to me, and others in my situation if this bill were passed.

Mahalo,
Vener George Rayo

From: Aaron K Gorospe [agorospe@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 3:28 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB232
Attachments: SB232.Testimony.doc

Aloha,

Attached is my testimony for SB232.

Mahalo,
Aaron Gorospe

January 22, 2011

Dear Committee,

My name is Aaron. I was born and raised here in Hawai‘i, and I happen to be an ‘opihi – a local boy who loves and does not want to leave the islands. I was a Catholic school student from K-8, and then attended and graduated in 2003 from the Kamehameha Schools. I recently attained my baccalaureate degree, and I am currently working as a college-level tutor at UH and a part-time temporary teacher at a local high school. I enjoy contributing to the community by helping others learn, and I am planning to further my skills as a future educator as I continue my education in Chaminade’s graduate program. Overall, I’m just a pretty average local boy who loves his community and wants to do his best in life.

I am also gay. And apparently, society feels that trait overshadows all my positive qualities.

Growing up as a gay teen was quite difficult. I was given all kinds of negative messages that damaged my self-perceptions – that homosexuals were “dirty,” “hedonistic,” and “unChristian,” which volunteered them for prejudice and discrimination. As an adult now, I am more socially aware, and I now understand that the problem is with society as a whole, not myself and those like me.

The issue at hand now is that of equal rights through civil unions. For some reason, many people do not seem to realize that gays and lesbians are normal people – normal people who want and deserve to be treated equally. Refusing to provide these kinds of rights sends the message that homosexuals are “less” than heterosexuals – that they are second class citizens because of their sexual orientation. This kind of social and legal subjugation has very real effects on the lives of many homosexual Americans, from the gay teenager who is struggling with his sexual identity and the teasing of classmates to the unwed lesbian who cannot see her partner in the hospital because she does not have the right.

Although the falling through of House Bill 444 was painful, I and I’m sure my community and our supporters do not feel deterred. I implore you to support SB232. I and other proponents are not seeking to unravel the moral fiber of America, nor are we trying to redefine alleged “traditional” institutions for malicious reasons. We just want to see equality come to light in this time of great change.

And as an everyday local boy who contributes to this community just as much as anyone else, I feel that I and those like me deserve to be treated fairly.

Mahalo for your time,
Aaron Gorospe
95-1062 Puulu Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: lynn mcgovern shivers [ladmcski2@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 3:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony; fshivers@gmail.com
Subject: SB232

Aloha,

My husband and I love Hawaii and its people. We like to think that we are better than other states. We want to be kinder, more open-minded, less bigoted. We believe that that is what the promise of Hawaii is.

We have a brilliant gay son who moved out of state because of bigotry here against gay people. He is in a committed relationship and deserves all the advantages we have as man and wife. We have gay friends, some in long term relationships, longer than most of the heterosexual couples we know.

It's time for us to lead the fight for equality. Civil unions is an important step.

Please afford gay people the rights they deserve and pass SB232.

Thank you,

Lynn Shivers

520 Lunalilo Home Road

#6405

Honolulu, HI 96825

808-386-8317

From: chingston@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 3:57 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: support SB 232

I support SB232.....mahalo for your time,

Ann Egleston
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

--

The difference between animals and humans is that animals change themselves for the environment,
but humans change the environment for themselves.

Ayn Rand

From: ELLEN LECLAIR [ELECLAIRE@HAWAII.RR.COM]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 4:09 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: CIVIL UNIONS

PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED AND SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE.
I AM STRONGY IN FAVOR OF CIVIL UNIONS.

ELLEN LECLAIR

From: Ryan J Loeffers [ryanjl@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 4:28 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232
Attachments: LoeffersSB232Testimonial.doc

My name is Ryan Loeffers from Hawaii Kai and I am strongly in favor of passing SB232.

I had a very difficult time coming to terms with my sexuality and then dealing with the depression associated with being discriminated against. I was initially afraid that my parents would be among those who would turn me down for who I was. I was very pleasantly surprised that they supported me from the instance I came out to them. They never stopped loving me or supporting me and, they would love for me to be able to have a family of my own. This would be much easier for me if the committee were to pass SB232.

Unfortunately, not everyone is as supportive as my parents are and I've experienced a great deal of discrimination since I came out 4 years ago. The civil unions bill is a sign that same-sex couples as legitimate families. We are not second-class citizens, but we are currently not protected under Hawaii law. SB232 would provide us the essential legal protection that we need, our families need, and our children need.

As important as the legal protection is the dignity that we gain from not being treated as second-class citizens and the step forward that Hawaii would be taking in social progress in denouncing homophobia. Civil unions would mean so much to myself personally and Hawaii's other same-sex families.

My parents want what any parent wants for their child. They want me to be happy, to find a partner and have children. Though possible, this is currently a legal nightmare for Hawaii's families.

I would like to extend my warmest aloha to the committee for considering SB232 and taking into account Hawaii's same-sex families.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Ryan Loeffers

From: Bobby [mcbobby@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 4:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232, Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 10A

My name is Bobby McClintock and I **SUPPORT SB 232** - 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 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

From: rsv314@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 6:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Please seriously consider supporting this
it was the right thing to do before and it still is
thanks

Rick Velasquez
911 Kaipii St
Kailua HI 96734

From: Elaine Brown [elainebrown@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 6:17 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: OPPOSE SB 232

JDL Committee Members,

As a voter and lifelong resident of Hawaii, I respectfully request that you OPPOSE SB 232. The majority of Hawaii's voters already voted by ballot that we oppose same-sex marriage and SB 232 is equivalent to same-sex marriage. I understand you may not agree with this interpretation but I request that the legislators do not pass SB 232 or any version of a bill relating to Civil Union this year. I request that we focus on balancing our budget and improving our economy by supporting good industries...we must prioritize and focus on issues that have an impact on the greater population of Hawaii. Let us focus on making Hawaii a great showcase to the APEC visitors and in a manner that we can all be proud of. Civil Union should not be a forefront issue for the legislators and should not be passed this year. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully yours,

Elaine Brown

From: mak221@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 6:21 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

To Chair and Honorable member of the JDL Committee:

I write this as a person who has been in a committed same-sex relationship for 38 years and yet do not have the protection that any heterosexual couple has. Let me emphasize that Civil Unions are not the same as Marriage. If they were, they would be called Marriage.

SB 232 is a wonderful opportunity for Hawai'i to provide "liberty and justice for all" as our Pledge of Alliance says.

The honorable opponents of this bill will say it will affect traditional marriage. What is meant by traditional marriage? The Jewish definition? The Christian definition? Patriarchs in the Bible had multiple wives and concubines. Is this what is meant? In any case, 6 states and almost every European country recognize Same-Sex relationships. Have their traditional marriages suffered? Of course not. So this argument fails.

The honorable opponents will also say marriage must lead to procreation. This is also untrue. What about sterile people? Older people? People who do not want to have children? Do we prevent them from being married? Of course not. This argument also fails.

Civil Unions are not Marriage. They are an attempt to provide some equality to same-sex couples. Nothing more; nothing less.

Please vote to support this step for Equality for all in Hawai'i.

Mark Koppel
Umauma (Hawai'i Island)

From: mpeary1947@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 6:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing - SB 232 - 1/25/2011 - Conf. Rm 016

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

In all likelihood I will not be available to be physically present for the hearing on SB 232 on January 25, 2011 so I'm submitting my testimony via email.

I'm urging you to vote NO on SB 232. We've been through this debate (ad nauseam) for several years. All of the objections that were presented in the past regarding the "Civil Unions Bill" are still the same. Even though the language of the bill has changed slightly, the hidden intent remains the same which ultimately will result in same-sex marriage that will hit our state like a tsunami if the "Civil Unions Bill" is voted into law.

Changing the language of the bill is like putting lipstick on a pig. Try as you might, we're not stupid or ignorant to the fact that the bill has almost identical language to the wording in bills introduced and passed in California and Connecticut which, when passed, immediately opened the floodgates for same-sex marriage.

I don't want my legislators defining marriage. I rely on God to define marriage which is simple, beautiful and practical as follows: ONE MAN married to ONE WOMAN. He established marriage as a divine institution. We need to uphold the ideals of marriage that are embraced by all religions.

May I please ask you to recommend putting this issue on the ballot so the electorate can decide on this extremely important topic. Then and only then would this highly controversial matter be objectively considered by the people of Hawaii instead of having it rammed down our throats by a few misguided bureaucrats.

To those of you on this committee who voted no in the past, I applaud your efforts! To the newer member(s) of the committee, I urge you to listen to the reasons those members voted no. More importantly, please listen and heed the requests of the overwhelming majority of others who will be testifying against SB 232. If you choose to ignore the deafening opposition by the many in order to accommodate the whims of a very tiny minority, then you truly do not deserve to hold office in any capacity.

Respectfully,

Margaret Peary
95-1007 Ainamakua Dr. #38
Mililani, HI
96789

From: Dustin Campos [itsdcampos@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 7:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232

Hi my name is Dustin J.K. Campos of Maui,Hawaii And I am strongly in favor of passing SB232. Growing up has been a struggle on finding myself. Who I really am, I remember from growing up I always seemed different from every other guys since elementary school but had now idea, I come from a very open and loving family with the true meaning of aloha and embraces everyone differences. Going in to intermediate I first came out to a friend on how I felt, I never knew it was a label or it even had a name but he questioned why I'm gay with a strange look on his face, All I could say is I like boys and I see girls as sisters. From them I of that "Strange" look he gave me I went way deep in to why am I like this. In the 8th grade I had it bad, teased everywhere in school. Hell was the gym period, Id always thought what if I wasn't here maybe it would be much simple for people. That 8th Grade summer I tried taking my life, attempted suicide with a much of pills found in my bathroom and around the house. I remember feeling drained and tired. I layed on the bed and cried and prayed, I prayed to God and King Jesus to take me away from this world because how you made me they wont except it. I fell asleep and woke up feeling sad because it wasn't a success. I kept what i did and who I am a secret partied a lot did drugs, till my freshman year of high school and tried again. This time with pills in my moms medicine cabinet.

Same thing happen prayed and cried laying on my bed feeling of as what I felt falling from a high building, wasn't successful. I woke up thinking what? why? why this didn't work? I've seen it on tv and movies why? Then something dawned on me I felt something warm holding me as if their is a reason why I'm still here. So I did what I had to do, I came out to my family members on who I really am. That it self made me feel a heavy stone was lifted off of me. I think by letting same sex couple marry would make lives easier for everyone trying to find themselves, so that they too will feel their equal just like everyone else same rights, same laws. yet I know people here in Hawaii isn't to excepting like my family and friends. I myself find it ridiculous when people quote the bible, Saying Protect marriages? If the want marriages protected BAN Divorce. Doesn't the bible itself say treat people with kindness? do on to people, how you want to be treated? Beware of false prophets. If they quote the bible I also will, God gives the feeling of love, freedom, kindness, giving, security. He never makes people feel Pain, Envious, Hate, Sad, Mad. I think the reason he gives up a thrive to stand up for our self is to remind the people who's homophobic or ANTI whatever that he is the creator, He will make what he wants NEVER question his designs, Never question why people look different from everyone else, feel different from everyone else.

I think MY Hawaii needs to step up and show people Hawaii is and still have the spirit of Aloha. Because my childhood and growing up was almost taken away from me from how society views on whats normal and how people should live their lives, why? Because society hides it differences like its a fairytale. We should live our lives for us not because someone says "STOP, your defected, we wont except you" This is new times, Women now work, women has equal rights as a man, African American has right even Asians they cant be changed for who they are neither can we the LGBT community filled with Whites, Asians, Black Etc.. If we are 2nd class citizen why must we do/ pay first class taxes or anything else?

From: Judy Vuono [judyv@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 7:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please pass bill number (SB232),

Please pass **bill number (SB232)**.

Let's be proud of Hawaii supporting equal rights for all without discrimination.

TO: Chair and members of the Judiciary Committee of the
Hawaii State Senate

FROM: Beppie Shapiro

SUBJECT: SB232: Civil Unions

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011 at 10 a.m.

POSITION: SUPPORT

Submitted on January 22, 2011.

Testimony:

I was born and raised in Hawaii and have lived there virtually all of my adult life. Since I am 68 years old I have lived through a wonderful period in which the United States expanded civil rights for many minorities. Never once has harm come to our country or state because of expanding civil rights, rather we have earned admiration abroad and increased citizen participation in our society.

It is now past time for Hawai`i to continue this progress by recognizing the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people to participate in committed, loving relationships which are honored by society and protected by law. It is embarrassing to read about long-term couples who are not allowed to make important decisions for each other as married couples do, and whose relationships are limited compared to those of married couples. Only a small (though vocal) minority of Hawai`i's citizens oppose civil unions.

Please honor the opinions of our LGBT citizens and of the rest of us who support civil rights by supporting SB232. I will stand up straighter as a citizen of Hawaii if this legislation is adopted.

To All Senators; State of Hawaii,

We kindly request that you vote to pass SB 232, The Civil Unions Bill.

Due to our witnessing and having to survive through the premature and preventable deaths of our three sons (two of whom were gay) while they were all still only in their twenties; our support for its passage is deep, intense and personal.

While civil unions is designed to afford same sex adults the right to form legal, personal, committed and loving relationships that brings along with it equal rights and privileges afforded heterosexual married couples; it also serves as a beacon of hope for children and youth who are growing up glbtq; that they too will have the opportunity to love openly, without guilt and shame. We know first hand what can happen to glbt children and youth who are systemically and persistently disparaged, bullied, marginalized and excluded from mainstream society simply on the basis of their sexual and gender orientation, without consideration as to the nature of their conduct. We know how their emotions, spirits and souls are diminished and even destroyed over time as they often do not see a safe and viable future for themselves. We know this because we lived and learned about such from our gay sons, Glen and Guy Nakatani.

In contrast, because heterosexual children are not demonized for their sexual orientation they enjoy the opportunity to evolve into loving individuals who can look forward to loving another, openly and without shame. We know this as well, as we are heterosexuals and remember growing up having absolutely no grief about our sexual orientation.

Finally, it must be said, that it is not enough to say that Hawaii is a State of Aloha. It is not enough to say we promote the the safety and well-being our keiki's. It is not enough to say we are a place where we cherish and value life. It is not enough to say we are a land of diversity and embrace all who come to Hawaii to live and pursue their dreams. It is not enough to simply "talk" our way to making Hawaii the best state in the union; we must, whenever called upon to do so, take those courageous steps to promote the well-being of all peoples of this great state of Hawaii. In the scheme of our evolving history here in Hawaii, passing the civil unions bill into law would be but one small step (appropriate comprehensive education is a larger and more important step) that, in our opinion, truly reflects the real spirit of aloha, an aloha that manifests acceptance, compassion, respect, dignity, honor and love of all its diverse peoples!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Al&Jane Nakatani
22 Puuaina Place
Kahului, HI 96732

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

I am a professional in Hawaii and I believe that a civil unions bill will contribute to a more vibrant talent pool as creative, skilled individuals who belong to the LGBT community gravitate to Hawaii as a place where equality is real. They will be encouraged to start new businesses or work for organizations in Hawaii because they know their rights as individuals and families will be protected under the law. That will be good for all the people of Hawaii and for an economy that is struggling to recover.

Unless we support a civil unions bill, Hawaii's hospitality industry will suffer. LGBT couples will take their vacation expenditures to other states and other countries where their rights are respected, if that is not the case in Hawaii. We need that money spent here to create jobs and help grow our economy.

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.

As far as faith is concerned, all the great faiths call upon people to treat others as we would wish to be treated ourselves. A civil unions bill will uphold this principle of true equality.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Pamela Menter

From: John Doe [hnlmsc@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 8:13 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: re: SB232 relating to Civil Unions

To: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
From: Ryan K. Kapuniai, J.D.
Re: SB 232

Aloha Senate Committee,

I write in strong support of SB 232, although the Hawaii gay community deserves and should continue to strive for full marriage equality, both on the state and federal level.

I very much appreciate the work of the Hawaii democratic party on working towards greater justice.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ryan K. Kapuniai
juris doctor

From: joel beck [beijiahe@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 10:49 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: testimony for hearing on SB232, to be held January 25, 10am

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I would like to hereby submit my testimony in regard to the hearing for SB232 on January 25 at 10:00am.

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

I believe a civil unions bill is needed to preserve the integrity of our promise of aloha to all, especially our

'ohana who happen to be gay. As long as

Hawai'i is w

ithout 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.

Please pass legislation in this legislative session to respect all citizens of this 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

From: Juliana Chaize [jchaize@mac.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 11:05 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

I support SB232 and would like to see it pass. Please accept my vote for this!

J. Chaize

From: Kyle Kajihiro [kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:22 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 232, Sen. Judiciary Cte. January 25, 2011, 10 am,

SUPPORT SB 232

Aloha Senators

Thank you for hearing SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions.

I strongly support this bill.

I believe that all couples who chose to be in long-term committed relationships should be able to gain the same legal rights and privileges as married couples.

My opposite-sex partner and I have been together for more than 16 years. We have a son together. But we refused to get a marriage license because marriage as defined in the law excluded same sex couples. The religious beliefs of some people should not dictate discrimination against an entire class of people and their families.

Still my partner and I would like to have more legal protection for our relationship. We would prefer to have our relationship protected as a civil union that was inclusive of all types of families. In France, more heterosexual couples are opting for civil unions over marriage to avoid the religious baggage associated with marriage. I believe that this might also happen in Hawai'i if the option were available.

I urge you to pass this bill so that there will be alternatives for those of us who do not wish to participate in the separate and unequal institution that marriage has become.

Thank you.

Sincerely
Kyle Kajihiro

From: Catie Martin [catie.martin@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:38 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

I am writing you today to show my support of SB 232- Civil Unions. I have several very good friends, and family that would be directly affected by this bill. I find it completely irresponsible that we, as a state, claim to be diverse, tolerant, and full of Aloha Spirit, yet we treat a good majority of our friends, neighbors, family, co-workers like they are second-class citizens. This saddens me.

However, last year, I saw a glimmer of hope. So many of the House and Senate members stood up for equality! (Thank you!) They raised their voices loud and clear! I have never been more proud of Hawai'i! Unfortunately, at the last moment, we were cast aside. Our cause was said to be "not important enough" and "there were more pressing matters".

Well, I say standing up for the Constitutional rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness for American Citizens is always important. It's always a pressing matter when the majority begins to ignore the minority of this great land.

If we in the majority stop standing up to protect and support those in the minority, then we have failed as a state, and as a country.

Please Support SB 232-Civil Unions!

Thank You for taking the time to read this,

Catie Martin.

From: christopherloves@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:29 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony regarding bill number (SB232) the hearing(January 25, 10 am)
Attachments: x2lLk8gWZSgHanrx5AGs.jpg

TESTIMONY regarding bill.
(SB232),

To whom it may concern,

I enthusiastically support civil unions, and equality for Lesbian, Gay, BI sexual, and Transgender families.

As a Gay, forty year old man, I probably should be outraged that I live in a society, where all of our contributions are required, even expected, yet basic human rights are continually denied us.

For example I am on a national registry to take up arms, should our way of life be threatened, yet the same government refuses to acknowledge my need to protect, declare, and bequeath, my love for my life partner.

Fortunately I have great faith in humanity which offers me much comfort, and if I witness injustice in the capitol building, I see kindness in the streets.

Sincerely, Christopher, Honolulu

Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®

From: Andrea Oefinger [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:07 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Andrea Oefinger
Newtown, CT

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: George Martin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:17 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

George Martin
Loule, Portugal

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: darius dirzinkas [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

darius dirzinkas
london, United Kingdom

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Jerry Mayeux [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:27 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Jerry Mayeux
Hattiesburg, MS

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Elisabeth Bechmann [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:29 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Elisabeth Bechmann
St. Pölten, Austria

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Chuck [chuck@mauisunseeker.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 In FAVOR of Civil Unions Law

RE SB232 Hearing on January 25, 10 am

TESTIMONY FOR TUESDAY'S HEARING ON CIVIL UNIONS LAW

I am the owner of the Maui Sunseeker LGBT Resort in Kihei. We employ 7 people plus many other companies (laundry, landscaping, etc) that all benefit from the revenue from our clientele. Additionally, they book activities and eat in our restaurants and rent cars. In the recession, we were the only resort that had a consistent high occupancy rate that paid taxes to the state of Hawaii. This is attributable to the higher disposable income they spend.

I believe we need a civil unions law because I have personally seen and heard gay couples say that in future they will take their vacation expenditures to other states and other countries where GLBT rights are respected. We need that money spent here to create jobs and help grow our economy.

Sincerely

Charles A Spence, Owner/Managing Member

Maui Sunseeker LGBT Resort

551 South Kihei Road

Kihei, HI 96753

From: Ken Conklin [ken_conklin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:39 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 Hearing January 25, 10 AM; Testimony

JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Re: SB232 Hearing January 25, 10 AM

From:
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205
Kane'ohe, HI 96744
tel/fax (808) 247-7942
e-mail Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com

Date of message January 23, 2011

Aloha Senators,

SB 232 is not perfect, but it is an improvement over present law and therefore I support it.

I have long been a civil rights activist, mostly on issues related to Hawaiian sovereignty. One of my fundamental principles is that government should treat all citizens equally under the law. That principle applies to marriage and civil unions.

Here's a quick summary of my views on marriage and civil unions. A more detailed analysis is at <http://tinyurl.com/l8qas2>

Our laws should be changed so that government no longer licenses or certifies marriages, while marriage no longer conveys governmentally enforceable rights and obligations unless the partners also choose to have a civil union.

Just as in a law partnership or business partnership, government should not inquire into the genders of the partners in a civil union, or the nature of their sexual relationship, if any.

Marriage is a religious sacrament bringing souls together in the presence of God.

Civil union is a business partnership -- a legal partnership certified and enforced by government whereby people acquire rights and responsibilities for the benefit of themselves and society.

Marriage and civil union are two completely separate concepts. Most people will choose to have both. But it is perfectly possible for a relationship to be either a marriage or a civil union without also being the other type.

Each religious institution should be free to choose for itself whether to allow the sacrament of marriage for same-gender spouses, regardless of government laws; because the government will respect the separation of church and state and will never certify or enforce or prohibit any religious sacrament.

It is a matter of civil rights that government must allow business partnerships -- including civil unions -- for same-gender partners with the same rights and obligations pertaining to opposite-gender partners. Government should not inquire into the existence or nature of sexual relations between partners in a civil union; rather, the role of government is to certify the existence of a civil union and to enforce the contractual relationship between the partners. Government should establish laws through the political process regarding permissible genealogical and property

relationships among the partners in a civil union, including the question whether more than two people can be partners.

MARRIAGE IS TO RELIGION WHAT CIVIL UNION IS TO GOVERNMENT

Marriage is a sacred sacrament under the auspices of religion. Government has no right to interfere by specifying requirements or restrictions. Government should not be issuing licenses or certifying marriages. Sexual expression can be an important element of spirituality; therefore a religion has every right to allow or refuse marriage to same-gender partners. Must marriage be restricted to two people of opposite gender? Indeed, must marriage be restricted to only two people? Such questions should be entirely for the religious institution or the participants to decide, without interference from government laws.

A civil union should be a binding partnership agreement, certified and enforced by government, in which the partners agree to support each other in ways established by laws adopted by elected legislators or voter referendum. Civil union partners should be bound by law to provide for each others' support. Government is thereby relieved of providing support in case one partner suffers adversity. Therefore government might (or might not) decide to grant tax breaks or other subsidies to civil union partners. However, if a partner chooses to dissolve the civil union, then government might require the withdrawing partner to pay back the total of all tax breaks that partner has received because of the union, since there will no longer be the legally enforceable pledge of mutual support whose permanence was anticipated as the reason for granting the tax breaks.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Both church and state agree that there should be a separation between church and state.

"Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). Since that command comes from Jesus, whom Christians regard as God incarnated, Christians might also add ironically: What God has set apart, let no man join together.

The United States follows the same principle expressed in different words. The first clause of the first amendment to the Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Both God and our Constitution tell us we should not mix government and religion. Other nations might have theocratic governments, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran. But one of the main reasons people came to America was to escape religious persecution carried out by governments. Our nation was founded and expanded by people from many different nations and religions, who worked together cooperatively by setting aside the religious differences that could have made them mortal enemies back in their countries of origin.

It is essential that we must not have laws founded in the theology of any particular religion and hostile to other religions. The fact that a particular religion says God considers a certain behavior to be an abomination (sodomy, for example), must not be used as a reason for enacting a law to prohibit that behavior or to deny people their civil rights merely because they privately engage in behavior considered abominable by a religion or by social custom in particular subcultures.

The benefits and obligations conferred by marriage should be entirely spiritual and are presided over by God and by religious officials. If people want material benefits from government on account of their relationship with each other, or if they want government to enforce promises they have made to each other, then they should establish a civil union.

The complete, detailed essay is at
<http://tinyurl.com/l8qas2>

From: Cindy Brower [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Cindy Brower
Chicago, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Jim Mock [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:37 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Jim Mock
Medford, OR

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Anneke Hut [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Anneke Hut
Amersfoort, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Alex Elliott [mailto:alex@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Alex Elliott
London, United Kingdom

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Isabella Rael [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:56 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Isabella Rael
Rio Vista, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Lisa Jackson [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:56 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Lisa Jackson
Baton Rouge, LA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Kit Yan [badasskit@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:37 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions Testimony

I am 26 years old and I live in New York, but originally from Waipahu. I stayed on the east coast after attending college in Boston. I currently do not have any plans to return to home until Hawaii becomes a safer place to live for me and the family I intend to build. Many of my queer friends who left for school, remain on different parts of the mainland because they cannot give their families the protections that a civil unions bill would. A civil unions bill will help give us more incentive to return home to participate in Hawaii's economy and let us be closer to our families in a safe environment.

Aloha,
Kit
808-741-0700
www.kityanpoet.com
[Facebook Fanpage](#)

From: Victoria Sethunya [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Victoria Sethunya
SLC, UT

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: mike@kauaiislandweddings.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:48 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Union Bill SB232 testimony in support.
Attachments: Civil Unions bill 2011.pdf

Aloha,

Please find attached my letter of support for the new Civil Unions Bill SB232 to be heard on January 25th at 10am, 2011.

Regards

Mike Hough



Hawaii State Senate
27th Legislature, 2011
State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 25th, 2011

Attention: Senate Leadership

Address: 6440 Olohena Road
Kapaa, HI 96746
Phone: 808-822-5381

Speaking in SUPPORT of Bill SB232

Date Jan 23rd, 2011

As an ordained Hawaii State licensed minister performing weddings on Kauai I fully support this bill because I believe that both I, and also the State, have a responsibility to treat all people in a similar manner, without discrimination. Offering a Civil Union with the same benefits as heterosexual couples is the right thing to do.

As a board member of the KWPA, Kauai Wedding Professionals Association, I sent testimony for the House Bill HB444HD1 in February 2009. Almost 100% (one dissenter) of the KWPA members voted to support the measure at that time, and I strongly believe we all feel the same now.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Hough".

Reverend Michael John Hough. CEO

Kauai Islands Weddings

From: Concerned Citizen [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:56 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Concerned Citizen
New City, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Chase Gentry [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:57 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Chase Gentry
Old Hickory, TN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Leslie Fox [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:06 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Leslie Fox
Bedford, NH

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: carlee trent [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:07 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

carlee trent
springfield, OH

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Jason J Green [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:27 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Jason J Green
Spotsylvania, VA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Carole Sarcinello [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:37 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Carole Sarcinello
Mosheim, TN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Hope Youngblood [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Hope Youngblood
Henderson, NV

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Guy Lafond [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Guy Lafond
Hawkesbury (Ontario), Canada

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Rick Tonsing [mailto:rick@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:56 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Rick Tonsing
Fair Oaks, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Michael Prince [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:56 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Michael Prince
Columbia, MO

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Paul Sant-Filh [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:56 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Paul Sant-Filh
New York, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: John Miller [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

John Miller
Bloomington, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Subhadra Corcoran [peacesubhadra@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: civil unions

Please end the discrimination of gays and permit at least civil unions if not marriage. Vote for fairness . Thank you. Mrs. Diane Corcoran

From: Gary Bradley [gary@islandindoor.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:30 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB231

Aloha,

Please support this bill as it will allow me and my partner to be treated as equals.

Thank You.

Cheers~
Gary Bradley
Paul Perry
435 Walina St. 1004
Honolulu, HI 96815
write: gary@islandindoor.com
ring: 808.753.1002
click on link below for a G experience....
[><\(\(\(°>..,.,.,.Think G..,.,.~`.,.,.><\(\(\(°>](#)

From: Klaudio Negric [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:36 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Klaudio Negric
Rijeka, IN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Maureen North [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:57 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Maureen North
Shortsville, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Lorna Larsen-Jeyte [tutulorna@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:05 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Recently Hawai's was named in the Top Ten of Tolerant states. Please, this Legislative session 2011, let us live up to our name!!!
Please support SB232 and show the world that Hawai'i is, indeed, moving forward with equal rights for all. We have wasted too many hours in discourse. NOW IS THE TIME TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SB232.
Imua!

Mahalo,

Lorna Larsen-Jeyte
Precint 3, District 5
Volcano, Hawaii

From: Jacob Shipton [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:09 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Jacob Shipton
Bunker Hill, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Kanuji Parmar [kanujiparmar@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Senate Bill 232 - Civil Unions

This is to express our support for justice and equality and to support Senate Bill 232- Civil Unions.

Body: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Thanks,
Sajjan and Kanu Parmar

From: Casey Cameron [casey946@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:51 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please Support Civil Unions

Dear Legislative Leaders,

I am writing from Illinois. Although I am not a Hawaii resident, I feel it is critical to voice support for same-sex couple's rights where ever they are.

Our state legislature has just passed civil unions and the bill will be signed by Governor Quinn in a few days. Passing your civil union bill will send a message that same-sex couples will be treated fairly in Hawaii and lead to increases in tourism in your state.

I hope you pass this bill.

Thank you,

Casey Cameron
Chicago

From: Frank Lassise [scdoggedoc@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:03 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Aloha.

My name is Frank Lassise, Jr. I am a 39 year old Veterinary Doctor who recently moved with my spouse to Maui from Portland, Oregon. My spouse, Jonathan Dailey, is a Licenced Acupuncturist. We married legally in California two years ago, when we still lived in that state.

Our wedding day was one of the happiest of our lives, as we were surrounded by our family and friends in a legally recognized and binding testament of our union and commitment to eachother. It meant that we could visit eachother in hospital if one of us was I'll, file our taxes jointly in our state, enjoying tax benefits from that status; that we could make certain legal decisions for each other, own property together and that I could add my spouse to my work insurance coverage if we chose to. On a more personal note, it meant our relationship was given the same validation and acceptance as anyone elses; ours was equal to and given the same weight as anyone elses. On an even more personal note, having been in a heterosexual marriage at a point in my life when I still did not understand my own sexual orientation, I can personally atest to the fact there is NO difference between a hetero or homosexual marriage except the genders of the two people in that special, binding relationship, and so, they should be equal in the eyes of the law.

it pains me on a personal and economic level to not have my marriage and union to my spouse recognized by my new home state; for all of the reasons I have mentioned. In addition, my spouse and I will be adopting a child soon and I should be able to tell my child his parents love for eachother and union are just as valid as any of his friends' parents.

Please make Civil Unions a reality now. Rights and Freedoms delayed are rights denied. It's the right thing to do for Hawaii and it's the right thing to do for my family.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Frank Lassise, Jr. D.V.M.

Sent from my iPhone

From: dennis tynan [dmtynan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:24 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: testimony IN FAVOR of SB232 for january 25 at 10am

i am writing today to express my wholehearted endorsement of senator hee's bill that would guarantee civil unions for all our citizens of the state of hawaii.

it is morally and legally wrong to discriminate against two consenting adults based on their sexual orientation... and SB2332 will go a long way to erasing this smudge of dishonor on our state that linda lingle allowed to remain the law of the land.

indeed, it is akin to the miscegenation laws of the early 20th century...and people 50 years from now will look back at this "debate" and wonder who those religious freaks are who opposed such a no-brainer.

it is with cautious optimism i await the committee's decision to act on this historic piece of civil rights legislation.

mahalo for your time and consideration.

--dennis m. tynan
makaha, hawaii

From: Rubén Fernández Asensio [asensio@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:32 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232

In Support Of SB232

To be heard by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 10 AM

Dear Senators,

Thank you for some minutes of your time. My name is Rubén Fernández Asensio and I'd like to urge you to support Senate Bill 232 Relating to Civil Unions. Although I'm writing from Spain and I'm not a US citizen, I do so in behalf of my husband Seiji Miyasaki, born and raised in Wahiawa. I want to voice the injustice that is being inflicted on him, and on uncounted thousands of other Americans that are still treated as second-class citizens by their own government.

We have lived together since we met in Hawai'i four years ago and can't imagine the rest of our lives without each other. However, I'm not an American citizen, and my legal avenues to stay there with him are next to nonexistent. For both state and federal law, we are complete strangers despite our commitment to each other just because we are both male. Ironically, federal law also entitles any heterosexual American to sponsor a foreigner for a K-1 visa (fiancé visa) and later for permanent residence as well merely by proving that they are planning to marry in 90 days and have met at least ONCE. Thousands of mail-order wives enter the US each year in this way. Is this equality under the law? It is rather ironic too that the US, while generously granting asylum to foreign refugees, forces many of its own citizens to go into exile, for the only crime of loving foreigners that happen to have their same sex. And yet, you don't decide whom you love, just as you don't choose your family.

Seiji has been strong enough to take up the challenge, and after moving to Spain with me we entered lawful marriage, which gave him the right to stay here with me. Nevertheless, leaving his country wasn't our choice, as it disadvantages us in many ways. Here he is handicapped at every step for not knowing the language, and has to rely on me for all his economic and social needs, which takes a toll on his self-esteem and strains our relationship. Also, although the language barrier may lessen with time, the burden of separation from his family will only become harder to bear. His parents are much older than mine and we already anticipate the time when their health will fail and Seiji, being the youngest of his siblings, will have to move back to Hawai'i to take care of them in their last years. Indeed, he doesn't give up the hopes of eventually moving back to his homeland, despite knowing that it currently won't welcome me. I've already seen him crying from homesickness in Christmas, which broke my heart. Unlike straight Americans in binational marriages, he hasn't had the option of uniting his two families rather than choosing me over them. His dilemma is but an artifact of deliberately unfair laws, and makes me wonder whose family is being «defended» by this status quo. Certainly not Seiji's!

I know that immigration is the preserve of federal law, yet I thought our case might give you an insight on what is really at stake. In 1996 Congress passed the so-called Defense Of Marriage Act, which prevents federal agencies from recognizing any sort of same-sex union for any purpose. DOMA is already challenged in federal courts, but its eventual repeal alone will give us no relief, for it is in Hawai'i where Seiji's parents live, and it is there that he wants to return to. Without any form of legal recognition from the State of Hawai'i itself, even after DOMA is gone he will still be prevented from sponsoring me for a residence permit and I will still be unable to move there with him.

In sum, if you really support Hawai'i's families, please help keep Seiji's family together. Don't separate him from his aging parents!

Thanks for your appreciation. Sincerely,

Rubén Fernández Asensio

C/ Latrilla 12 1, 2.
Badalona 08912 Barcelona
Spain

From: e [dwspaulding@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:33 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions

My same-gender life's partner and I just celebrated our 20th anniversary together. I would like to request that the senate pass SB232 so that we have some recognition of our relationship. I do not know how to express it any simpler than this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dale Spaulding

From: Richard [richard.koob@kalani.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:40 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.
Attachments: oledata.mso

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.

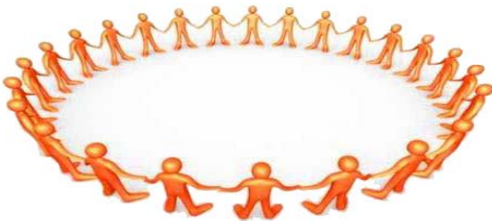
Hence, I personally request that you please support SB232 and, if possible, include the enhancements of SB231.

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 (+SB231 enhancements) 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 and, if possible, including the enhancements of SB231.

"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

From: Tammi Sweeney [tjsweeneyhi@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:54 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In support of SB232 - written testimony

Aloha,

My name is Tammi Sweeney, I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, a voter and a supporter of SB232.

Mahalo to the Committee for your consideration of this bill and of this written testimony.

From Kindergarten, we learn & recite the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America, which ends with the phrase: With Liberty and Justice for All. Everytime our country realizes again the self-evident truth, that all people are created equal, and recognizes the inalienable Civil Rights of ALL people, I am even more proud to be an American.

For me, as much as I love Hawaii, it has been painful to watch my State deny the basic right to marry and care for one another to my LBGT friends and family. Truly, every member of our Hawaii Ohana is compromised in our Civil Rights when even one of us is compromised.

The time is long overdue for our State to realize and recognize the inalienable rights of a group of our fellow Citizens to marry & care for each other. SB232 will strengthen our community and protect the children of same sex couples as well.

I urge the Committee to move swiftly to bring Liberty and Justice to ALL of our Hawaii Ohana by sending SB232 to the full Senate for consideration. Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Tammi Sweeney
1025 Maunaihi Place #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

January 23, 2011

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Members of the Judiciary and Labor committee

Re: **Support of SB232 – Civil Unions**

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing date: January 25, 2011

Hearing time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rm. 016

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I wish to express my **strong support of civil unions** for all couples (except incest-relationships, as stated in Section 2-3), regardless of sexual preference.

Respectfully,

Carmille Lim

Aiea, HI

carmille.lim@gmail.com

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND LABOR

**Hearing January 25, 2011, 10AM
Testimony on SB 232
(Relating to Civil Unions)**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Committee:

I strongly support the passage of SB 232. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on this matter.

I am an Attorney and CPA practicing in the estate planning area, with a significant client base of same-sex couples. I also work with clients on estate and income tax planning and tax preparation and have represented clients before the Hawaii Department of Taxation and Internal Revenue Service on tax matters. In my capacity as a CPA and Attorney, I have previously testified, from 2007 - 2010, before the Legislature on matters affecting same-sex couples and their families, including urging adoption of previously proposed legislation regarding Civil Unions and urging rejection of most other legislation which would provide for the piecemeal addition to, and changes of, Hawaii's existing Reciprocal Beneficiary laws and benefits.

In my past testimony, I have always stressed to legislators and staff members that what is really needed is a comprehensive basis of laws which can efficiently and completely address the administration of the hundreds of rights and responsibilities afforded married spouses and their families (and more than a thousand statutes which address them) and which would provide parity and equality between the rights and responsibilities afforded to legally married spouses and their families to legally unmarried, but committed, same-sex and opposite sex partners and their families.

If you believe that it is important to ensure equality between committed couples (same-sex and opposite sex) and married couples, I urge you to vote for and support SB232. Since the Reciprocal Beneficiaries provisions were enacted in the late 1990s, I have, in my professional experience, found them to be very weak law, without much substance or applicability to most of the citizens of Hawaii. RB laws do not allow for joint adoption, joint income taxes, joint foster parenting, or the right to private communication between parties, to name just a few of the rights afforded legally married couples, nor do they address the rights of, and obligations toward, children who are the products of committed but not legally recognized same-sex relationships. I believe that the present RB laws are profoundly unequal and unfair to couples that consider themselves to be a family, yet are prohibited by law from marrying one another. The present RB laws are mostly inadequate to deal with the everyday situations and issues facing these committed couples and their families, and the present system allowing unilateral dissolution of a Reciprocal Beneficiary relationship (without judicial intervention) does not adequately address the allocation of rights, property, and responsibilities between the parties once the RB relationship has ended. To add to a flawed and incomplete set of Reciprocal Beneficiary laws only builds on a weak foundation, without addressing the underlying issues of equality for all couples and their families. Hawaii needs a comprehensive basis of laws creating Civil Unions, as proposed in SB 232, to complement and add to the current laws that provide (on a mutually exclusive basis) for the formation of both Reciprocal Beneficiary relationships and legally sanctioned opposite sex marriages.

Civil Unions currently exist in New Jersey; California, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada permit legally sanctioned Domestic Partnerships; and Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Iowa, the District of Columbia, and Connecticut now provide for full rights in same-sex marriages. No profound negative affects on the institution of marriage or society have resulted in any of these states as a result of extending civil rights and benefits to a larger group of taxpaying citizens of any of these states. Please pass SB 232. The time is now—and the opportunity to make history and do what is right is yours. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lee M. Yarbrough
Attorney at Law & Certified Public Accountant
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

From: Karen Chun [Karen@KarenChun.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:40 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support S.B. 232, the civil unions bill

Despite the \$millions the Mormon church is pouring into anti-civil union ads, most people favor this bill. All of us have friends and family who are gay and who deserve equal rights.

Please follow the Constitution and keep religion out of our government.

Give everyone equal rights.

Thank you
Karen Chun
87 Lae St.
Paia HI 96779

From: KaysieMc@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:41 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: vote yes for Civil Unions - testimony

I am a soon to be 60 year old woman who left Hawaii 40 years ago to pursue a professional life as a "hidden" lesbian in the larger cities in the USA. It would be my dream to come "home" and pursue my life of social work and volunteerism with the option to have a civil union with my partner. I know that I can give back with great abundance that which I lost in those earlier years struggling to survive a hidden identity. The aloha spirit has never left me. I would love to see civil unions realized as this represents a personal moment of aloha for me.

Kathleen C. McAlister
218 41st Street NE
Bradenton, Florida 34208
ph. 941-7478263

From: Michele Nihipali [nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:41 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Dear Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am writing in support of SB232 a bill relating to civil unions. Children of same sex partners are denied the benefits of heterosexual parents. Civil unions will not infringe on anybody's right to worship or define marriage within each religious denomination. Equality and fairness for same sex couples is a civil rights issue for this generation. President Obama supports civil unions. How will the legislature and state of Hawaii be remembered if it doesn't address and confront this civil rights issue now?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Michele Nihipali
54-074 A Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717

From: Kate Werner [ekatewerner@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:47 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In support of SB232

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kate Werner. I am a resident of Kailua HI, and a teacher with the state Department of Education. I thank you for your time and consideration concerning SB232.

I support SB232, and encourage your support as well.

I teach at Castle High School and my partner, Mary, teaches at the University of Hawaii. We both volunteer in our community. I see the discrimination at school towards the LGTB community and hope, for the sake of our youth, that SB232 will pass. With equal rights and government support, comes acceptance and equal treatment.

Mary and I have lived together for 16 years. We are a committed couple that owns a home together and have pooled our resources. We are asking for the same rights and privileges that opposite sex families have. Mary and I are in the process of adopting and would like our child to have the same dignity and benefits as children of opposite sex couples.

We simply wish to be governed equitably. Currently we are forced, as same sex Hawaii residents, to jump through unfair legal hoops and financial expenditures to try to simulate the privileges and benefits that opposite sex couples in Hawaii can access with relative ease.

Please support and represent all members of this community by giving equal rights to all citizens. Please support SB232.

Sincerely, Kate Werner

Kate Werner

566 Kipuka Place

Kailua, HI 96734

From: Linda Lach [llach@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:50 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please Note my support of S.B. 232

I cannot attend or testify, but please note this voter's support for S.B. 232. I believe it is long overdue, and will help to strengthen our families and our State.

Mahalo.

Linda E. F. Lach
Attorney at Law
Kapaa, HI

From: Linda Lach [sunset2@aloha.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please accept my support S.B. 232

I am unable to attend the hearing, but I am strongly in favor of this bill, S.B. 232. Please note my support for the record.

Thank you.

**Peter Tegan,R
Lihue**

From: Godhein@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 1:31 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Aloha Senators of The State of Hawaii,

My name is David Godoy, and my domestic partner, David Heinrich, have been together for 37 years. We came from California in 1999 to begin our journey on this beautiful island. We first rented and then had our home built in Kea'au on the Big Island in 2005. We have been members of various Metropolitan Community Churches for 28 years. We are currently active with our church community in Pahoia for over 7 years. Now, both retired, we would like to enjoy all the benefits of every other American by proudly having our long term relationship finally recognized by the State of Hawaii. It's about time to give all citizens all of their equal rights. We beg you to consider the passage of this bill.

Mahalo - David Godoy and David Heinrich

**The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011**

Committee on the Judiciary and Labor

**Hearing January 25, 2011, 10 AM
Testimony on SB232
(Relating to Civil Unions)**

Honorable Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Abrahamsson and as a same gender oriented citizen **I am strongly in support of the SB232**. I am grateful that this Committee has taken up SB232 for its consideration to become law in Hawaii.

I am relying on you as our elected legislators to see that all Hawaiian citizens receive and have equal civil rights. I am also relying on your legal and ethical obligations to care about the concerns of minority groups, such as the interests of the LGBT-citizens in Hawaii, and oppose discrimination of all kinds. Please put yourself, just for a minute, in my situation as a same gender oriented person. I am convinced that you will find it easy to act truthfully and grant me and protect my equal civil rights.

There are more than 1,400 legal rights conferred upon heterosexual married partners in the United States that same gender couples are denied by not being allowed to marry (<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>).

Passing the SB232 and letting it become law would at least let same gender couples receive some of the rights that heterosexual married partners are granted. Even in the state of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, and Vermont, and Washington DC., where same gender marriage is legal, most of the benefits of heterosexual marriage do not apply, because the "Defense of Marriage Act" states that the federal government only recognizes marriage as "a legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife."

Here are just a few of the legal rights that heterosexual married partners have and same gender couples are denied:

- Joint housing for elderly
- Right to make a decision about the disposal of loved ones remains
- Immigration and residency for partners from other countries
- Automatic inheritance in the absence of a will
- Deferred Compensation for pension and IRAs
- Bereavement or sick leave to care for partner or children
- Joint Insurance Plans
- Joint filing of tax returns
- Social Security
- Medicare
- Estate and gift tax benefits
- Welfare and public assistance
- Child support
- Joint parental rights of children
- Joint adoption
- Tax credits including: Child tax credit, Hope and lifetime learning credits
- Credit protection
- Crime victims recovery benefits
- Domestic violence protection orders
- Judicial protections and immunity
- Spousal veterans benefits
- Public safety officers death benefits
- Wrongful death benefits for surviving partner and children
- Medical care for survivors and dependents of certain veterans

Within the current legal system, including the Reciprocal Beneficiary Law, these benefits cannot be privately arranged or contracted.

President Barack Obama won the presidential election because he promised and proclaimed a CHANGE in how the interests of the citizens of United States have been handled. According to the Whitehouse website President Obama “supports full civil unions and federal rights for LGBT couples and opposes a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage” (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/civil-rights>).

You have the chance to support and pass the Civil Unions bill this legislature. Passing SB232 and letting it become law in the State of Hawaii would finally allow same gender oriented citizens, who are willing to commit to each other, to receive some of the rights that heterosexual married partners are granted.

Please pass SB232! Please show that you care!

Mahalo, Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Dan Abrahamsson, RN, BSN

1607 Quincy Place

Honolulu, HI 96816

Phone: 808 753 6287

From: Kimberly Tice [kimtice@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:14 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please pass SB232!

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, specifically SB 232, 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 is unjustly being denied to a small minority. I urge you to do the right thing and please pass SB 232, which will be heard on January 25 at 10 am. Thank you so much for your time.

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

From: Matthew Friedman [matthew_friedman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 1:50 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB 232

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Matthew Friedman urge Hawaii lawmakers to pass SB 232. As a father of a gay son it is imperative that he be afforded the same rights as his fellow citizens, particularly in terms of sharing his life with a partner. For example; the right to have who he wants at his side during hospital stays or emergencies (eventually his parents will not be there to support him but a partner may), the right to crucial benefits that other married couples are entitled to, and the right to determine who is an heir to his estate. Most importantly SB 232 shows that my son is a valuable member of society instead of the marginalizing him because of his sexual orientation. Society is changing, case in point the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. How ironic would it be that a LGBT person could serve and possibly die for their country yet not have the right to be in a civil union? In light of society's changing, Hawaii must adapt to those changes, for far too long Hawaii's LGBT community has been treated unfairly and it is time to pass this bill!!!!

Sincerely,
Matthew Friedman

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 232

Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM

Room Number: Room 016

Dear Honorable Senators,

My name is Van Law; I am a gay male and the Vice President of Pride Alliance Hawaii, a local non-profit organization created for the purpose of eliminating inequality and discrimination in Hawaii through education and outreach, and I am submitting my written testimony in support of SB 232.

I support SB 232 because making civil unions available to all couples would benefit the state, the couples wishing to enter into such a relationship, and all gay and lesbian members of society who face endless discrimination on a daily basis. Passing SB 232 will empower LGBT men and women to contribute further to Hawaii's future by acknowledging our role as responsible citizens and mutual caretakers of progress and prosperity of our beautiful state.

Speaking on a more personal level, I understand firsthand the difference between discrimination and complete acceptance, and realize the need to uncover my full, true, gay self. For the greater majority of my life I did not share my sexual identity with my parents; it was only after getting involved with the civil unions bill two years ago that I mustered the courage to do so. Although my parents still hold certain stigmas about who I am, I can breathe a sigh of relief because I no longer carry the burden of living a lie. I told my mother and father that I loved them both dearly, and would never lie to them, and in the case of my homosexuality, it was not a lie when I say I was never given a choice on the matter. The only choice I had to make was between happiness (by being myself) and sadness (by living a lie), and I chose to be me.

The same burden exists in the workplace; in my two previous places of employment, I did not have the courage to reveal to anyone I was gay so I was never truly happy at either place. At my current place of employment, where I serve as a Design Engineer at one of Hawaii's top ten construction firms, I decided to be open and honest with my coworkers and bosses from the day I was hired. I found their acceptance invigorating and can attest to its true value in employee retention; in my young professional career, I have served three years with the same employer.

Although I am single and do not intend to enter into a civil union in the immediate future, I understand it to be a matter between society acceptance and intolerance, which must be remedied so everyone in Hawaii can find their happiness. I know you share in my hopes of making Hawaii the best place to live and work for everyone and hope that you will act in a manner that will provide the loving atmosphere we need.

Thank you very much for your passage of the civil unions bill in the last legislative session and the expeditious introduction of SB 232 in this year. We now have a receptive governor and a receptive public so please pass SB 232 so Governor Neil Abercrombie can sign it into law.

Mahalo,

Van Law
Vice President
Pride Alliance Hawaii

From: Pjrc [pjrcgo@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:47 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Yes, this bill should have been passed long ago. It will be of great benefit to families here in Hawaii. We must progress in our thinking about society and not live by values of a darker period in human history. Affirmation, inclusion, acceptance, understanding, diversity, and humanity, are some of the reasons we need to add Civil Unions as a choice it option to couples who are marginalized and disadvantaged. I wholeheartedly support passage of this Bill SB 232.

Sent from my iPhone
Dr. Kahu Kaleo Patterson
Pacific Justice and Reconciliation

T: 808 330-3769

From: A [aac12@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:43 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232
Attachments: SB232

Andres Autrique
445 Seaside Ave. #803
Honolulu, HI 96815
aac12@earthlink.net

My name is Andres Autrique and I support SB232 and thank the committee for its consideration. On November 23 2010, I became a naturalized citizen of this great nation. The United States is a nation where dreams can come true. Where you can walk the streets regardless of your race, creed, or sexual orientation, without the fear of persecution and the liberty to express oneself without the fear of losing your life or freedom.

This great nation was founded on three basic natural and unalienable rights: Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness. Thomas Jefferson and the other Founding Fathers believed that people are born with natural rights that no government can take away. The Government exists to protect these rights.

Denying equal rights is denying one of the basic principals of any natural rights. I have the right to pursuit happiness. I have the legal right to decide if I will like to share my life with someone. I have the right to be free and the freedom to decide if a Civil Union is right for me. Denying any of these freedoms, in the name of Religion is wrong. Basic rights do not go against Religion they go against intolerance.

Same-sex couple have the basic rights to be happy, to have a family, to have a home, to be part of this great nation. To stop being third class citizens and become first class citizens, to be a full participant of this great Republic.

According to the latest Gallup polls 58% of the American Public, including President Obama, are in support of same-sex civil unions.

We are a Republic, not a Theocracy; this is a civil right not a religious belief. Civil unions will not impact in anyway or form religion Regardless of creed. There must be separation between church and estate. Civil unions will give full legal rights to its citizens. Which has nothing to do with religious preferences. God or Holy Books should not be involved in this discussion. This is a civil right issue not a religious belief.

This is an issue that has to be address now. We need to think in future generations. Our younger generation is more tolerant when it comes to Civil Unions. According to the latest Gallup poll 62% of young men between the ages of 18 to 49 and 59% of women between ages 18 to 49 are in favor of Civil Unions. Same-sex families deserved to pursuit happiness to the fullest extent of the law and basic natural rights set by the Declaration of Independence.



HAWAII
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

Brien Hallet, President
Karin Gill., Vice-President
Fritz Fritschel, Treasurer
Chuck Huxel

DIRECTORS

Juliet Begley
John Bickel
Tom Horton
Jim Olson
Nancy Bey Little
Jan Lubin
Stephen O'Harrow

MAILING ADDRESS

Barbara Polk
George Simson
Bart Dame (Alt)
Marsha Schweitzer(Alt.)
PO. Box 61792
Honolulu,
Hawai'i 96822

February 23, 2011

TO: Chairman Clayton Hee
Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii
Barbara Polk, Legislative Committee Chair

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Americans for Democratic Action thanks the Chair for introducing and hearing this bill. A fundamental principle of our organization, on both the national and local level, is equal rights for all people. At present, couples of the same sex are not allowed to marry and, as a result, are denied the benefits that accrue to married persons, despite their love and commitment to building a life together. In addition, the lack of rights makes these couples into second class citizens and is particularly hard on their children. Civil unions would provide same sex couples with rights, duties and benefits equal to those couples who marry. We hope that Hawaii will not be left behind in addressing the civil rights issue of our age.

We note that SB 232 is the same as the bill passed over the past two years. However, we understand that additional work has been done since that time in identifying areas of the legal code that would need to be clarified to answer various questions regarding civil unions. We urge you to consider substituting the language of SB 231, which carries the same intent as SB 232 but is more detailed, to avoid having to hold additional hearings in this session or future sessions to clarify various parts of the State statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Jonipher Kwong [jonipherkwong@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:58 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT of SB 232

As a clergyperson, it is my responsibility to ensure my congregants are able to live happy, fulfilled lives by performing rituals that are meaningful for them, including weddings and memorial services. It saddens me when my congregants feel less than because the state does not offer them the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities in marriage simply because they happen to be gay or lesbian.

As lawmakers, it is your job to ensure the citizens of Hawai'i are given equal protection under the law, allowing them to live happy and fulfilled lives by making sure law-abiding, tax-paying citizens get to enjoy the benefits the state has to offer, including marriage licenses.

While SB 232, relating to civil unions, will not be able to tell religious institutions like mine whose relationships to bless or sanctify and whose not to, it CAN provide much needed protection to gay and lesbian families who are harmed right now because they are denied this right. We need to value all 'ohana, not just those who happen to be of the opposite sex. Please, please, pass SB 232 quickly. It is the right thing to do.

Mahalo,
Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong

From: Nancy Aleck [NAleck@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:02 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
RE: SB 232
Hearing: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m

From: Nancy Aleck, Community Member
Position: In Support

Aloha Senators and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Twenty years ago, Hawaii could have led the way in this issue of equality. I advocated then and I am doing so again now.

Several states have enacted civil union of same sex marriage laws. PLEASE waste no time in passing this civil rights legislation.

The next generation will wonder what was the big deal?

Thank you,

Nancy Aleck
PO Box 61212
Honolulu, HI 96839

From: eileen mckee [meileen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232, 1/25/11, 10:00 am, Conf. Room 016

In Support of SB232

1/25/11, 10:00 am, Conf. Room 016

Testimony from: Eileen McKee

Kihei, HI 96753

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony rather than appear in person. My testimony is in support of Senate Bill 232 – Relating to Civil Unions.

I support the passage of Senate Bill 232. Equal rights for the gay and lesbian community is long overdue. This bill will be a step in the right direction towards providing additional benefits to the families of this minority group.

Mahalo for your support,

Eileen McKee

279 Alaume Street

Kihei, HI 96753

From: barbara george [barbarageorge40@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:25 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: S. B. 232

Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

RE: Testimony on S.B. 232

I am a Hawaii resident and registered voter. I strongly Support S.B. 232. As a now divorced heterosexual woman, I am not threatened in the least by providing everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, with the civil right to marry whoever they wish. Let's put Hawaii on the just side of this issue. Get on with it!

Barbara L. George
59-066 Kumupali Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712
638-5690

From: NJHawaiiWalter@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:32 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Aloha

I am writing in support of the Civil Union bill presently before you. My partner and I have hoped and prayed for the same rights, obligations and responsibilities as everyone else here in Hawaii. You know, we pay our taxes the same as everyone else and we have waited many years for this law that means so much to those of us who have faced discrimination. This bill harms no one yet it gives us a way of life that we have only dreamed about since childhood and that others have enjoyed automatically.

Mahalo for giving us this hope for the future betterment of our family.

Walter Mahr

95-1020 Paemoku Place

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

NJHawaiiWalter@aol.com

From: Anson Rego [regoa@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Opposition to SB Bill 232

I oppose the proposed civil unions bill because it is same sex marriage under another name. It confers all the same benefits and burdens of heterosexual marriages on same sex couples. It makes no distinctions.

I prefer a vote on this most important issue be given the people of Hawaii on a separate ballot regarding this legislation.

Thank you.

Anson O Rego
Attorney at Law
A Law Corporation

regoa@hawaii.rr.com
tel: (808) 696-7061
fax: (808) 696-7765

From: tom aitken [popokiaikane@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 4:58 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 232 = Civil Unions

Support for Senate Bill 232 = Civil Unions

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Please SUPPORT SB 232.

I have yet to explain to my own young children that they live in a State that deprives them of equality under the law in areas that impact them directly because their parent is gay. I am hoping that you will do the right thing before I must do so. Think about it--how would YOU tell them?

While I would prefer substitution of the language of SB 231, I am asking that you please SUPPORT SB 232.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Tom Aitken
PO Box 800
Kaneohe, HI 96744
530-413-5588

From: Skip [skippero@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:14 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

To whom it may concern:

This must be the year and I hope after so many year of effort that Hawaii's Civil Unions will become law quickly this year so that all citizens can move on with their lives.

Sincerely,
Robert "Skip" Burns, Jr.

From: Helen Nielsen [oluolu@maui.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:15 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 232 - Civil Unions

Aloha Senators,

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of SB 232.

This bill does not undermine any church's ability to sanction marriage and simply ensures fairness to all.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Helen Nielsen
1942 Main St., Ste. 104, Wailuku, HI 96793
HC1, Box 183, Hana, HI 96713
283-1038

From: Linda Staton [writtenword2@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions Bill HB444

In our country we are first of all guided by equality. It is important that we remember this and help our state lead the nation in equal rights under the law. Civil Union Bill HB444 has come to us in Hawaii in order to make our laws so that all religions, genders, and races may live in our state without discrimination. Those who chose to partner with the same sex should be allowed to live with the same rights as married couples between a man and a woman.

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Staton

Kylie Alexandra
342A Ohai Street
Hilo, HI 96720
808.896.8944
kylie_opi@msn.com

January 23, 2011

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Subject: Testimony in support of SB232, to be heard on January 25, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

I am the sister of a lesbian woman and I have witnessed firsthand her struggle to be recognized as a full human being worthy of all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this great state and nation. Fortunately, the tide has turned in her favor as more and more people across the country support civil unions for gay and lesbian couples. I urge Hawai'i not to be left behind in this movement. I urge Hawai'i **not** to continue its current policy of discrimination towards gay and lesbian couples. I urge Hawai'i to rise above the politics of ignorance and division. Please, pass bill SB232, and ensure that Hawai'i is on the right side of history.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB232.

Sincerely,

Kylie Alexandra

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M to completion
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Please accept this as testimony regarding the hearing of SB 232 on Tuesday, January 25th 2011.

I stand opposed to civil unions in the state of Hawaii for a number of reasons. Please do not pass this bill as civil unions in Hawaii will force same sex marriage in this state.

My biggest concern regarding civil unions that leads to same sex marriage is that traditional family as we know it will soon be redefined, reinvented and so will the way children are made within same sex marriages. This is something that goes against the natural order of family, something that has so many “unknowns” tied to it thus there should be further research and investigating into what this shift of redefining marriage would cause. How will this impact children?

It is great for all of the folks who would like their gay lifestyle to be validated by the public but at what cost to children and to the natural order of how families have been made for thousands of years? This bill is short sighted. There is one goal and one goal only of this bill and that is to eventually get same sex marriages in Hawaii.

The reciprocal benefits bill offers many rights to gay couples and yet this isn't enough. The same holds true once civil unions gets passed. It wont be enough and same sex marriage will be the next step. Hawaii residents voted years ago that marriage is between a man and a woman so why is this being ingnored? Why is the voice of the residents of this state being ignored? And if there is any doubt why not let us vote again on this issue?

This is not an anti-gay initiative, this is not about hate or fear. And this is not about being fair or tolerant. This is about preserving something that has worked from the beginning of time, the family as we know it that has a mom and a dad that then produce offspring.

I celebrate all human life and love all people regardless of lifestyle choices but that doesn't mean we are called to celebrate or embrace those lifetyles especially if we feel they will cause harm to our society and the people within it.

Please do not vote yes on this bill. It is not the will of the Hawaii people.

Mahalo for your time and deep consideration in this matter. Lissa Cockett, Hawaii Kai

From: Steve Lopez [slopez@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 5:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony SB232

Senators of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

This hearing will come before you on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10AM. Please accept this message to you as my testimony in OPPOSITION to SB232.

A vote for civil unions equals a vote for same-sex marriage. If you do not support same-sex marriage, you should vote NO on SB 232. I sincerely ask you to do just that - VOTE NO on SB 232.

A federal district court judge in California ruled that the Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriages violated the equal protection provisions of the U.S. Constitution. As we've seen in California, not even constitutional amendments protecting marriage are safe from activist courts. The people of Hawaii and the majority of our elected officials still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman. If this isn't about undermining and redefining marriage, why would the language of the marriage law be used to create civil unions?

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Stephen D Lopez

Kailua Kona, HI. 96740

From: DONNA MOCK [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

DONNA MOCK
MEDFORD, OR

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Roy Grant [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Roy Grant
Milesburg, PA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: lauren g [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:05 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

lauren g
monrovia, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: James Walker [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:07 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

James Walker
janesville, WI

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: katrina goodwin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

katrina goodwin
hyattsville, MD

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Maxi Mock [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:10 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Maxi Mock
Medford, OR

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Faye Godwin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:12 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Faye Godwin
Hillsborough, NC

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Bill Waring [alohabillw@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:14 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria
Subject: SB232-Testimony in Favor
Attachments: SB232 Testimony 2011.doc

Please see attached Testimony and make it available to the Judiciary Committee.

Senator Galuteria: My husband and I are voting constituents in your District and have confidence you will work to make this happen this year.

Mahalo,
Bill Waring

Bill Waring

Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee

Hearing: January 25, 2011, 10:00 AM

Testimony Supporting SB 232

Aloha,

My name is Bill Waring and I would urge you to vote **in favor of Senate Bill 232** that grants same-sex couples equal civil rights through the Civil Unions Bill.

As the co-head of our household with my partner William and our two teenage children, we deal every day with the same issues as our heterosexual friends. We have a mortgage and struggle to pay tuition bills for our kids. We participate in many community service activities, work hard to do our jobs ethically, vote, do our best to keep our family healthy and even treat ourselves to a movie now and then. And yes, we pay our taxes as responsible citizens. In other words, we are no different than you. And just like you, I didn't "choose" my sexual orientation. It is as natural to me as my brown eyes and my rapidly graying hair. Unfortunately, we have to do all of this under a different set of rules. The State of Hawaii allows heterosexual individuals to form legal, civil partnerships with the person they love and confers rights to that couple that are not available to my partner and I and our family. These are basic protections for our family that are recognized by a growing number of fair-minded states and countries. We are not asking for special rights, we are just asking that you codify equal rights for all families under Hawaii law.

I understand that many people have religious issues and find it difficult to support same-sex marriage, but Civil Unions have nothing to do with forcing any religious entity into condoning my family. I would not want anybody dictating to my church how to define marriage in our faith, and I would not be so presumptuous as to expect I have a right to force that on someone else's church either. But I would also remind you that in our country, and in our state, we are not supposed to be subjected to the religious beliefs of any one group at the expense of our civil liberties. Civil Unions are recognition of the inherent equality of our relationship and family in the eyes of civil law and should not be based on religious doctrine.

There are faiths that celebrate our family and my family is welcomed by them. I wish for the day when all religions recognize that my relationship has no bearing on someone else's marriage. As you are deciding how to cast your vote, I would encourage you to ask yourself the question: "How does recognizing Bill and William's lifetime commitment to each other and their family threaten **YOUR** marriage, or anybody else's marriage?" I believe you will come to the conclusion that it is the moral, fair thing to do and I encourage you to support the bill.

In conclusion, I would respectfully remind you that Civil Unions are supported by our President and Vice-President and more and more of our elected officials nationwide. Recent polls also indicate overall support across the country and here in our home state. Hawaii, as a land of tolerance and diversity, should be leading on this issue. I have faith that you will do the right thing by casting your votes in favor of SB 232 here in Committee and again when it gets to the floor of the Senate. I believe that you know in your hearts it is the right thing to do.

Mahalo for your time, your consideration and your vote.

Bill Waring
1212 Nuuanu Avenue, #1108
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 927-9241
Email: alohabillw@aol.com

From: William Anthony Allen Jr [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:18 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

William Anthony Allen Jr
Andover, MN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Colleen Klaum [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:19 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Colleen Klaum
Allentown, PA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Hannah Miyamoto [hsmiyamoto@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:19 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 232; Illegal spending by Hawaii Family Forum to influence the defeat of SB 232 and other Civil Union bills
Attachments: MiyamotoH_SB232_Testimony.pdf

Subject line: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing time and date:

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HANNAH MIYAMOTO

SOCIOLOGY DEPT. • SAUNDERS HALL 247
2424 MAILE WAY • hsmiyamoto@msn.com

January 23, 2011

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions, and
Illegal expenditures by Hawaii Family Forum against Civil Unions

Honorable Senators,

After working passionately for HB 444 last year, and enduring the disappointment of witnessing it being vetoed, I can share little more eloquence. Please pass SB 232 so that Hawai‘i can retake its place among the states of the United States moving toward justice and social progress.

I regret being unable to present my testimony in person, due to teaching commitments.

In addition, I am outraged by the decision of the Hawaii Family Forum (HFF) to purchase television advertisements against civil unions that were broadcast this weekend, and presumably continue through today. Given their content and timing, these advertisements definitely constitute an attempt to influence the passage or defeat of legislation. In return for the right to collect tax-deductible donations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a similar Hawai‘i income tax law, HFF is not permitted to expend a substantial portion of its funds for influencing the passage or defeat of legislation, contribute to election campaigns, and support other activities prohibited to an organization formed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Given that HFF was recently fined \$20,000 for violating the same laws, and remains under IRS investigation for 2010 crimes, do not take any action that would reward and encourage criminal defiance to these laws of general applicability. Swiftly passing SB 232, without or without strengthening amendments, would demonstrate your abhorrence of anarchists and scofflaws, even those claiming religion as a justification or excuse.

Mahalo and Aloha,

/s/

Hannah Miyamoto, J.D., M.S.

From: Chuck Correll [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:24 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Chuck Correll
New London, NC

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Stephanie Malara [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:25 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Stephanie Malara
Carlsbad, NM

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Linda F. Alvarez [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:36 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Linda F. Alvarez
Chicago, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Dawn Edwards [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:45 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Dawn Edwards
chicago, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: ELLEN CARSON [ECARSON@ahfi.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 Support

Please pass civil unions rights for our community. All people in Hawaii deserve dignity, respect, and the rights and privileges associated with this bill. We will be a greater State and people when we acknowledge the right of Hawaii residents to love the person of their choice, to join in union with that person, and to embrace the rights and responsibilities of a civil union. It's the least we owe to our residents, and it provides a greater equality that respects the rights of all. If you pass no other bill this session, this is the one that would create a more equal and just society for Hawaii. Justice is long past due for our gay and lesbian community and others who may enjoy the rights of this bill, but there is no better time than now to pass this bill. Thank you.

Ellen Carson
700 Richards St. #2601
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Marion Poirier [mpoirier808@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:12 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY RE: S.B. 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

January 23, 2011

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.B. 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Marion Poirier, and I am a registered nurse who believes that we must extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. My knowledge of genetics, as well as society's needs, prompts me to implore you to pass this measure of equal opportunity and justice of all.

Please include this testimony for your records in Tuesday's Hearing of January 25, 2011.

Thank you very much.

Marion F. Poirier, M.A., R.N.

Sent from my iPad

From: Amanda Jones [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:50 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Amanda Jones
Apex, NC

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Mark Vaughan [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Mark Vaughan
Texarkana, AR

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Suzanne M. Ritter [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:01 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Suzanne M. Ritter
Boardman, OH

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Levin Manabat [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:02 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Levin Manabat
Portland, OR

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Amanda Carey [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:03 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Amanda Carey
Orlando, FL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Susan Curtis [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Susan Curtis
Long Beach, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Richard Alvord [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:11 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Richard Alvord
Robstown, TX

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Bill or Bobbie Best [bestb002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:14 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

Please support marriage for all citizens so that everyone has the same rights.

Mahalo

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Best

280 Hauoli St.

Wailuku HI 96793

p. 242-9119

From: Nicole Weber [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 6:58 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Nicole Weber
Pasadena, MD

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Joshua Mitchell [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:18 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Joshua Mitchell
Stockton, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Laura Davis [davislauradavis@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:26 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I support equal right for same sex marriage

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee that I , Laura Davis, a Hawaii state resident in the county of Oahu support bill number: S.B. 232. All of my friends and family who are in same sex relationships deserve the same rights as my friends and family in heterosexual relationships. Please help Hawaii become a state which leads the nation in equality for all of it's citizens.

Thank you,
Laura

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

From: Edwin Bonilla [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:27 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Edwin Bonilla
Manassas, VA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Brittany Brower [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:27 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Brittany Brower
Montgomery, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Alan Alexander [hiflyguy19@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions

Your position: Support
Bill number: S.B. 232
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

I would like to draw attention from your committee to my personal support for S.B. 232. As a straight heterosexual male, and father of one, I hereby state my support for homosexual couples, male and female, to be issued the same rights and protection as heterosexual couples, such as me and my fiancé. My support comes from a perspective of principal alone. How can we possibly claim to be the beacon of freedom and a true champion of liberty for the rest of the world, if we ourselves lack the most fundamental understanding of equality. Majority of the opposition comes from those who would claim a higher moral ethical position based off their personal belief systems. The argument can be made that we heterosexual couples enjoy certain marriage rights based off a group of belief systems that we might not personally agree with or subscribe to in any way, shape, or form. But it is there because of these belief systems nonetheless.

Black people were oppressed for hundreds of years based off the belief system that it was ok to actually own someone. We can look back at those times of racial inequality, and openly admit it was wrong. It was wrong for the same reason treating homosexuals as second class citizens is wrong. Because we are no better than anybody else. In a free and just society, we hold certain truths to be self evident, that ALL men (and women) are created equal. So long as nobody is infringing on anybody else's rights to Life, Liberty, and The Pursuit of Happiness, the state of Hawaii has no right, or authority to unjustly rule in favor to openly discriminate against same sex couples. My position is, if they can pay taxes like everybody else, they should be treated like everyone else.

For all of those on the committee who would rule against S.B.232, I ask you one question. If you found that out of your entire year's salary, let's say, about 20% of your income comes from homosexual citizens, would you reject that portion of your yearly salary for the fact that it came from homosexuals? I doubt it. So I believe it is of the utmost importance for you to display some sort of continuity on the matter, in order to be seen by the public as a legitimate body. There paying taxes just like everybody else, to pay you, now it's your time to stand up for them. Stand up. Either we are going to be the country we say we are, or we're not. It's that simple. We send our young men and women overseas and expect them to lay down their lives if necessary, and what's the reasons given? To secure the RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS this country holds so dear. All those lives would have been lost for nothing, if we can't even get a straight answer on what EQUALITY means.

This would be a tough position to be in for anybody in the position of those voting on this bill. Pass or fail, I hope we realize, we as men and women of a civilized society, should never close our minds to other perspectives or ways of life. We are not the creators, we are the benefactors. We should not condemn that which does not condemn us. Asking for equality is probably the polar opposite of condemnation, unless of course we're in the business of promoting inequality. Last time I checked, that wasn't the case.

My sincerest alohas to my brothers and sister of Hawai'i Nei,

Alan k. Alexander

From: Bruce Combs [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:32 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Bruce Combs
Williamsburg, VA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: John Schwartzberg [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:34 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

John Schwartzberg
Jamaica Estates, NY

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Emily Crum [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:37 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Emily Crum
Lemont Furnace, PA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Vincent Gormley [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 7:42 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Vincent Gormley
Sioux Falls, SD

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Josephine Chang for Da MOMS

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Support for S.B. No. 232 Relating to Civil Unions

I am a co-founder of DA MOMS, a support group for parents of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children. I am also a retired public servant, a long-time community volunteer, a care-giver for my aging mother, a mother of 3 sons, and a grandmother of 2. My oldest is a wonderful young man, and he is gay.

So many of Hawaii's LGBT persons, including youth in school, adults, families, and the elderly, live in fear every day of harassment and physical threat, just because they are gay. Each one of them has parents, grandparents, and extended family. When our children suffer, parents and family suffer, and when families suffer, the whole community is affected. We in Hawaii are all hurt when some people are excluded and disparaged in our communities.

Discrimination against LGBT persons results in traumatizing emotional upheavals, depression, family crises, family secrecy, and isolation. These needy and vulnerable at-risk families and children often go undetected and underserved because sadly many parents and LGBT children seek safety in the closet.

During his years in our public schools, my oldest son became depressed and suicidal when he realized he was gay, and the dangers and harassment he faced daily. We parents ask for your support of S.B. 232, because leadership at the highest levels is needed to help dispel unwarranted and harmful discrimination against minorities in our society. If our laws continue to exclude LGBT persons or treat them unequally, that sends a message that they do not deserve to be included and treated respectfully as all others in our state. Passage of S.B. 232 would provide equal rights and protections under Hawaii law for all families, including same-sex couples and families, and would be a very big step towards building safer communities throughout Hawaii for all of our LGBT children and all LGBT families. They are our very own ohana and are a dear and wonderful part of Hawaii's people. We ask your help.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, January 26, 2011 10:00AM

TESTIMONY in Opposition to SENATE BILL NUMBER 232,
RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Elizabeth Vellalos and I am a resident of the State of Hawaii. Having been an educator for the past 23 years, it astounds me that same sex marriage has been resurrected and disguised as Civil Unions in Senate Bill 232. According to CNN.com "Just as Hawaii's high court seemed poised to allow same-sex marriages voters approved Constitutional Amendment 2, giving the legislature power to "reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." (CNN.com, *Hawaii gives legislature power to ban same-sex marriage, 1998*).

Clearly, your job as our elected officials is to "reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." Did you forget that the people of Hawaii voted in 1998 to Reserve Marriage to Opposite-sex Couples? That would mean that a man could not marry a man nor a woman marry a woman.

Unfortunately, SB 232, section 1-9 clearly states that "partners to a civil union lawfully entered into pursuant to this chapter shall have all of the same benefits, protections, and responsibilities as marriage, whether derived from statutes, administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any other source of civil law, as are granted to spouses in a marriage." [bold added] According to Section 1-10 we will now have to recognize civil unions, domestic partnerships, or marriages of the same sex from other jurisdictions. Section 4 "A party to a civil union shall be included in any definition or use of the terms 'spouse', 'family', 'immediate family', 'dependent', 'next of kin', and other terms that denote the spousal relationship, as those terms are used throughout the law."

- Throughout the 1990's I felt that it was extremely necessary to testify in both the house and senate. Year after year after year, my children and I journeyed down to the state capitol and stood before lawmakers in order to communicate our opposition to same sex marriage. Thirteen years after our victory - thirteen years after the voters of Hawaii made it extremely clear that we want you "the legislature" to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples - I find myself standing before you yet again today. Please, allow me to clearly state that I am extremely, incredibly, and explicitly, OPPOSED to civil unions.

A VOTE FOR CIVIL UNIONS IS A VOTE FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGE IN HAWAII.

I urge you, the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee, to uphold the voice of the people of Hawaii and say NO to Civil Unions.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Vellalos

From: kenplonsky@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:35 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

January 23, 2011

Testimony for SB232 RE: Civil Unions

TO Senate's Judiciary & Labor Committee (JDL):

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Ken Plonsky and I am here to express my strong support for SB232 - Civil Unions. I believe in equal rights for all.

From the bottom of my heart, I am asking for your support of SB232 (Civil Unions Bill).

This is a very important bill. It is about civil rights, social justice, fairness, and doing the right thing. It is about our community's respect for the lives and beliefs of others. Civil unions convey those rights and duties without changing the definition or character of traditional marriage. Civil unions are not marriage. They will extend a basic social and legal right to a new group of individuals without altering or diminishing what we now think of as marriage. Hawai'i has a history of recognizing personal and cultural differences. It has been a guiding principle of our community to respect individuals' differences. In matters of religion, culture and lifestyle, Hawai'i has stood as one of the most welcoming and tolerant places in our nation. Please do not let this bill be stopped in committee. It is time for Civil Unions (CU) to become law.

I am a person of faith. My strong support for civil unions was inspired by several social justice sermons given by my minister. There are many faith communities that believe that Civil Unions (CU) is the right, fair and just thing to do. This bill does not force civil unions on any faith community that disagrees. That is their religious freedom. The CU bill will allow those faith communities that want civil unions to use their religious freedom.

Over the years some Churches have been against civil rights. Some have used the bible to defend their position. Some churches were for slavery, segregation, not letting women vote, and not allowing interracial marriages. Those Churches do not believe in those views today but those scripture passages still exist. Some churches' view points have changed over the years. This usually happened after civil rights were allowed.

Civil unions are not the same as marriage. There have been a number of state courts that have stated that. The New Jersey Commission on Civil Unions came to the conclusion after an extensive study that civil unions are not equal to marriage.

Reciprocal Beneficiaries (RB) does not give the same rights as marriage. RB only gives a small percent of the rights of marriage. There are a number of areas; e.g. family law that are not covered by RB. It does not make sense to have RB cover those areas. CU would cover rights that same gender couples need but are not needed by everyone who is covered by RB.

On the White House Web site: "President Obama supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples.". In his inauguration speech, he said "All are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness".

Times have not stood still. Civil unions are now supported by the majority of the public, the majority of the Hawaii House of Representatives, Governor Abercrombie, former Governor Cayetano, many young people and others. The issue of equal treatment for same-sex couples is the civil rights issue of this generation. Equality is a simple concept yet sadly has been out of reach to so many. Denying rights hurts all families. It is time for Civil Unions.

I ask that you support SB232 and appreciate your careful consideration.

Mahalo,
Ken Plonsky
1778 Ala Moana Blvd apt 2208
Honolulu, Hi 96815
Kenplonsky@aol.com

From: Rebekah Luke [rebekahluke@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 8:38 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232, In support of, Judiciary Committee hearing 1/25/11 at 10 a.m.

TESTIMONY: SB232, In support of, Judiciary Committee, Hawaii State Legislature, hearing 1/25/11 at 10 a.m.

My name is Rebekah Luke, I live in Kaaawa, Oahu, and I vote at Hauula Elementary School. I am in favor of civil unions and support SB232. Several of my relatives and friends are in partnerships that would benefit from rights that this bill, if passed, would provide. I've been proud that Hawaii has been a progressive state and hope that it can once again be among the leaders in the U.S. on significant matters like this one. Thank you.

Rebekah Luke
51-151 Kaaawa Park Lane
P.O. Box 574
Kaaawa, HI 96730

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 232 – RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS. Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, SENATOR LES IHARA Jr., AND SENATOR SAM SLOM

My name is Renee Katayama, a 16 year-old homeschooled student, testifying on behalf of myself. I am strongly opposed to this bill, which is the same as same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

The problem with this bill is that it gives partners in a civil union the same rights as married couples therefore, it is equal to marriage. This is a threat to traditional marriage and traditional values, and also public health. Homosexual couples are many times more likely to develop Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases than heterosexual couples.

This is also a threat to the preservation of the ohana and marriage. Family is one of the most important things to the people of Hawaii, and to me. Civil unions will ultimately destroy the family unit. Because children cannot be born, the traditional family will be gone and replaced with a need for adoption and medical procedures in order to have children.

Finally, God did not create couples this way, He created them as man and woman and He is whom we will ultimately have to answer to. This is why I ask you to vote NO on this bill. I will now read sections S.B. 232:

S.B. NO. 232 A BILL FOR AN ACT-relating to civil unions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The intent of this measure is to recognize civil unions in Hawaii. By establishing the status of civil unions in our State, it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage under chapter 572, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"Chapter: CIVIL UNION

§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agent" means the person or persons appointed as agents by the department of health pursuant to section 572-5.

"Civil union" means a union between two individuals established pursuant to this chapter.

"Partner" means an individual who is a party to a civil union established pursuant to this chapter.

§ -2 Eligibility to enter into a civil union. A person shall be eligible to enter into a civil union only if the person is:

- (1) Not a partner in another civil union, a spouse in a marriage, or a party to a reciprocal beneficiary relationship pursuant to chapter 572C;
- (2) At least eighteen years of age; and
- (3) Not related to the other proposed partner in the civil union, as provided in section -3.

§ -9 Benefits, protections, and responsibilities. Partners to a civil union lawfully entered into pursuant to this chapter shall have all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any other source of civil law, as are granted to those who contract, obtain a license, and are solemnized pursuant to chapter 572.

§ -10 Civil unions performed in other jurisdictions. All unions between two individuals not recognized under section 572-3 shall be recognized as civil unions provided that the relationship meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter."

SECTION 3. Section 572-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

SECTION 4. A party to a civil union shall be included in any definition or use of the terms "spouse", "family", "immediate family", "dependent", "next of kin", and other terms that denote the spousal relationship, as those terms are used throughout the law.

SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on the Civil Unions Bill, SB 232. Please remember a vote for civil unions is a vote for same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

I thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and ask that you vote NO on this bill.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, January, 25 10:00AM

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 232, RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS
TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Bree'Ana Vellalos and I strongly disapprove of SB 232. Since 1998, the people of Hawai'i have stood strongly against several bills that have been related to both same sex marriage and civil unions. In November of 1998, Hawai'i voted against same sex marriage. Again in 2010, the people of Hawai'i protested and struck down HB 444, which stated "Every reference in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to "married" shall apply equally to the status of partners in a civil union; (HB444 section 3)." Isn't it clear that we do NOT want same sex marriage or civil unions in this state?

In the Description of SB 232, it states that, "Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union." (SB 232, Description) While Section 1 states, "it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage," this bill is one step closer to revising the definition of marriage.

History shows that allowing civil unions may further push the state's legislature to allow same sex marriage. In November 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court held that excluding same-sex couples from the benefits of civil marriage violated the state constitution, and in February 2004 that court further held that a "civil union" law would not be sufficient, and on May 17, 2004 Massachusetts became the first state in the United States where same-sex marriage per se is legal. (compiled by [Paul Axel-Lute](#) originally published September 2002 *last updated January 21, 2011*). A vote for civil unions **is** a vote for same sex marriage in Hawai'i. For these reasons, I strongly oppose both civil unions and same sex marriage.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hawaii Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing Date and Time: January 25, 2011 at 10 a.m.
Subject: In Support of S.B. #232 (Civil Unions)

We support efforts to legalize civil unions.

Our preference would be legislation that replaces civil-marriage laws for heterosexual couples with civil-union laws for heterosexual *and* homosexual couples, but we support S. B. #232 in principle.

Our hopes for our four children do not vary according to sexual orientation. We want each of them to have personal integrity, find purpose in life, engage in meaningful work, be responsible citizens, and find someone to love. We believe government should not be in the marriage business, and that the civil laws affecting life partnerships should not vary according to sexual orientation. Currently, our gay son is treated by government differently than are our other children. This strikes us as patently wrong.

We would view gender-blind, civil-union legislation as verification that all people are created equal in the eyes of government.

Aloha,

Susie and Randy Roth
Hi2mom@aol.com and rroth@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI

TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, January 26, 2011 10:00AM
TESTIMONY **in Opposition to** SENATE BILL NUMBER 232,
RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Please, allow me to clearly state that I, Whitney Vellalos, am extremely, and explicitly
OPPOSED to civil unions.

A VOTE FOR CIVIL UNIONS IS A VOTE FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGE IN HAWAII.

I urge you, the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee, to uphold the voice of the people
of Hawaii and say NO to Civil Unions.

Sincerely,
Whitney Vellalos

From: Jeff [mauidivemaster@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 8:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 Testimony for Jan 25 2010

Aloha,

Thanks you for taking time to read my emailed testimony enthusiastically supporting SB 232 (Civil unions).

As a long time Senior Executive in Hawaii's high technology industries I cannot stress how important it is to have this bill approved. We need to attract the best and brightest engineers and high technology work force for our companies in Hawaii. Currently we are unable to compete for some of these bring folks as the State of Hawaii is viewed nationally and internationally as not a friendly place to work or live by gay and lesbians.

I know that some of those opposed to SB 232 believe that the current civil unions law in place is more than enough protection for gays and lesbians, I can tell you first hand that this is **NOT** true. Some of the largest employers in the state (including state agencies such as the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii) continue to discriminate and demean their gay and lesbian employees by adding extra layer of paperwork and bureaucracy that must be notarized to dissuade it's gay and lesbian employees from seeking benefits or rights extended to straight employees (who can just sign and fax the same forms without being notarized or treated as suspect). RCUH is just one of many firms in Hawaii that feel empowered by the Hawaii state government to treat it's and gay and lesbian employees as 2nd class citizens, SB 232 will correct this believe and ensure that all citizens of Hawaii have fair and equal protection under the law.

I also know that passing SB 232 will result in an increase in gay couples choosing to vacation in Hawaii, in fact I believe Hawaii can become the single most important vacation locale in the world for gay couples - approval of SB 232 will bring back much need jobs in our hospitality industry.

SB 232 is needed to preserve the integrity of our promise of aloha to **ALL** (not some). Without this civil unions bill, Hawaii is telling 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 local traditions of hospitality.

My partner and I have been together for 23 years and even though we registered under the existing civil unions provisions, we continue to ensure discrimination at work in benefits and compensation, at restaurants, while obtaining health care and from other state of Hawaii institutions. We are considering leaving Hawaii if SB 232 does not pass as their are other states who will welcome my partner and I and the taxes from our high salaries.

Please vote for SB 232 so that equal rights for all Hawaii citizens are in place.

Thank you for your consideration,

s/s

**Jeff Brown
Capt USAR (Ret)**

From: gregboorsma@aim.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 8:18 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB 232

IN SUPPORT OF SB 232

January 24, 2011

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee:

We are both proud and pleased to submit testimony in favor of Senate Bill 232 regarding Civil Unions. Our names are Greg Boorsma and William Linmark, residents of Waikiki. We both believe that the time is long overdue for the State of Hawaii to extend the same benefits, legal protections, rights and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a recognized civil union. We thank you for your consideration of this bill.

We met in 1995 here in Hawaii and have been together now for over 15 years. We moved to the mainland for five years, living in Louisiana and Minnesota. In 1999, we were granted a Certificate of Domestic Partnership by the City of Minneapolis. We moved back to Hawaii in early 2001.

Mr. Boorsma, 52, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and has been a flight attendant with Northwest Airlines, now Delta Airlines, since 1986. Mr. Linmark, 41, is an artist and currently is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. We own our condominium at the Waipuna in the district of Senator Brickwood Galuteria, introducer of SB 232.

Delta Airlines, Mr. Boorsma's employer of over 24 years, has improved its recognition of domestic partners over the years. Some of the benefits we receive have come through managements' understanding of the right thing to do. Others have come through contract negotiations while still at Northwest. But all of our domestic partner benefits come with a cost because our relationship is not recognized by many governments. Mr. Boorsma must pay income taxes on medical, dental and flight benefits while his married co-workers do not. His pension ceases to exist upon his death. It is not inherited as with married co-workers. While Northwest/Delta has done almost everything it can within the law, the economic loss continues because our relationship is not legal and has no force of law.

These same economic injustices apply to the filing of Federal and State income taxes, future social security benefits, inheritance taxes and estate transference. In this time of economic turmoil, it is tremendously frustrating knowing that we are paying more than our fair share because we can't get married or apply for a recognized Civil Union.

We believe that the Constitution requires that all people be treated equally under the law. It's time to end discrimination, both real and economic, in the State of Hawaii and in the United States. Civil Unions are supported by our President, by our Governor, by the majority of the public, and by a majority of the members of the Hawaii Legislature. 2011 can be an historic year. We ask you to help Hawaii join many other states in the march to end all forms of discrimination. We ask that you support SB 232 and help us realize our dream of becoming a recognized family here in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Greg Boorsma
William Linmark
469 Ena Road #1705
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Raymond Mokiao [mokiaor@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 8:23 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 Civil Unions

Honorable Mr. Clayton Hee;

My name is Raymond M. Mokiao, Jr. and reside in Hau'ula. I am of Hawaiian and Chinese ancestry and of the religion of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

My ancestral and religious values and beliefs are very clear on the matter of marriage/union; that it is a sacred ordinance and only between a man and a woman. Any variance to this definition of marriage is a degenerative variant to procreation.

Please protect this right and gift to procreate. The marriage/union between a man and a woman is the only proper manner of which this is to be sealed.

Malama Pono,

Raymond M. Mokiao, Jr.
54-119 Pu'uowa'a Street
Hau'ula, Hawai'i
808-293-5099

From: Marty Guerriero [martyguerriero@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:53 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Yes on Senate Bill 232

Senate Testimony on Senate Bill 232

Dear: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m. Room number:
Room: 016

My name is Marty Guerriero. I come to you from Maui to speak to you as the Pass President of Both Sides Now, a leader of my Maui Community and as a concerned citizen.

Formed in 1981, Both Sides Now is an organization dedicated to the education and celebration of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community and their many friends and supporters on Maui.

It is my opinion that all people should have the right to the equality afforded by Civil Unions no matter what their sexual orientation. This country was founded on the principle that we are all created equal. Senate Bill 232 is a recognition of and agreement with that foundation of America.

I have many gay and lesbian friends who have lived their lives as partners. Like any relationship, they have gone through good times and bad, but they have one thing that holds them together. That is their love for one another.

By having Senate Bill 232 pass, these partners will have the same legal rights as any couple in Hawaii. I ask you to give equal rights to all the people of this State. I ask for myself and I ask for my friends.

Rob Boettner and Don Bradstord committed for 24 years
Michael Waddell and Llevellyn Lightsey committed for 35 years
Jim and Leon committed for 31 years
Scott Dean and Ron Calvert committed for 32 years
Steve Hansen and Karl Hensel committed for 14 years
William and Jerome committed for 12 years
Sky Lewis and Evan Foster committed for 10 years
Gary Canier and Owen Howson committed for 20 years
Martin and Alfred committed for 36 years
Patrick and Peter committed for 13 years
Steven Kruey and John Barberick committed for 10 years
Richard Anderson and John Lyle committed for 12 years
Gerald (Stephan) and Richard, committed for 21 years
Timothy Grisier and H. Michael Fong committed for 12 years
Jose Serano and Chris Larwood committed for 7 years
Mark Jesuroga and Dennis Chamberlian for 13 years
Janet and Jane committed for 41 years
Caron Barrett and Deborah Vial committed for 10 years

Joseph Bella (age 26) and Michael Percello (age 25) committed for 8 years
We thank you for your attention to this matter and ask you to vote to pass Senate Bill 232.

Martin Guerriero
Pass President 2009/2010
Both Sides Now

Marty Guerriero
Relax Therapeutic Massage
808-280-5185

From: Henry Curtis [henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:53 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232
Attachments: 01.25.11 SB 232.pdf

Aloha,

Here is LOL's testimony in strong support

--

Mahalo,

Henry

Videos (Vimeos) by Henry Curtis

http://www.lifeofthelandhawaii.org/Henry_Curtis_Videos.html

Henry Curtis
Executive Director
Life of the Land
76 N. King Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, HI 96817

phone: 808-533-3454. cell: 808-927-0709.

Web Site: <http://www.lifeofthelandhawaii.org/> [email:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com](mailto:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com)

DONATIONS:

PayPal: <http://www.lifeofthelandhawaii.org/Donation.html>

Hawai`i is blessed with every form of renewable energy: wind, solar water heaters, photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, wave, sea water air conditioning, ocean thermal energy conversion, hydro, biomass, waste oil biodiesel.

From: John & Steve [leepers001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:52 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: aloha from kiehi

dear all,

i will keep my posting very short.

my same-sex partner and i have been together for 31 years.....waiting and waiting, protesting and protesting, to have the same rights as every other american.

civil union is a start, but it falls short of the benefits that come automatically from marriage, which many people feel entitled to do several times throughout their life, some for just hours at a time! i would like my 31 year union recognized not only by the state of hawaii, but also by the federal government too.

time is running out as we are in our late 50's and we still wait and wait and wait.

please, pass the civil union bill, it isn't enough but it is a start.

sincerely,

john m. maroon
173 kulipuu st.
kihei, hawaii 96753

From: John Richard Young [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:51 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

John Richard Young
Norristown, PA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Eduardo Hernandez [ehernandez@cratonep.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:44 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support SB 232 - Hearing 1/25/11 at 10:00am

Date: January 24, 2011

To: Honorable Chair Clayton Hee and Honorable Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee of the Hawai'i Senate

From: Eduardo Hernandez

Re: **Strong Support for SB 232 – Civil Unions – Hearing on 1/25/11**

In 2010, Governor Lingle used strange logic to veto a Civil Unions bill that had earned super-majority support in the Hawaii Senate and nearly so in the Hawaii House of Representatives. Now that her tenure has ended, it is entirely appropriate to act again to support civil rights. In fact, it is your sworn duty to uphold the Constitution and ensure that all families are treated equally before the law.

While some opponents of equality will point to Hawaii's existing reciprocal beneficiary law, I can testify that this legislation fails to provide equal protection for families and communities. On October 9, 2010 I went to the Emergency Room at Kaiser Moanalua Hospital with my reciprocal beneficiary partner. We spent more than six hours there as the staff attempted to identify the appropriate care facility for my partner. As the evening wore on, I asked if I could see my partner and speak with him. The nurse on duty asked me what was my relationship to this person, and when I said we were reciprocal beneficiaries for one another, a legal status allowing for emergency medical decision making, the nurse laughed at me. She laughed at me. She was completely unaware of this law, and of any of the rights and responsibilities related to it. It was awful. In a time of profound need, the status of reciprocal beneficiary is largely unknown, even by medical providers at a primary medical center.

Did you know that it takes two signatures to enter into a reciprocal beneficiary relationship, but only 1 signature to end it. In fact, there is no requirement that one party even advise the other verbally or in writing if they choose to end an RB relationship. What kind of protection is that?

It is important to consider protections for families during times of dissolution – as these are times that are amongst the most stressful for families. In addition to providing access to family court for those that might need assistance in dividing shared assets and responsibilities, the threshold of having to file for legal dissolution, can help families to consider if they're really ready for dissolution, unlike in an RB relationship when it is just too easy to walk away from one's family duties.

I urge you to do your part for civil rights and justice and pass SB 232 today.

Eduardo Hernandez

Los Angeles, CA (I am a former Hawaii resident, and Past Chair of the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board)

(808) 276-0422

From: Henry Curtis [henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:53 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232
Attachments: 01.25.11 SB 232.pdf

Aloha,

Here is LOL's testimony in strong support

--

Mahalo,

Henry

Videos (Vimeos) by Henry Curtis

http://www.lifeofthelandhawaii.org/Henry_Curtis_Videos.html

Henry Curtis
Executive Director
Life of the Land
76 N. King Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, HI 96817

phone: 808-533-3454. cell: 808-927-0709.

Web Site: <http://www.lifeofthelandhawaii.org/> [email:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com](mailto:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com)

DONATIONS:

PayPal: <http://www.lifeofthelandhawaii.org/Donation.html>

Hawai`i is blessed with every form of renewable energy: wind, solar water heaters, photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, wave, sea water air conditioning, ocean thermal energy conversion, hydro, biomass, waste oil biodiesel.



LIFE OF THE LAND

76 North King Street, Suite 203

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 016

re: SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee

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

Thank you for introducing this important bill which seeks to comport law with the Constitution. Another bill SB 231 has also been introduced. SB 231 addresses many of the issues that arose last year. Therefore is possible the language in SB 231 should be substituted for the language in this bill.

Hawai'i's history is one of overcoming inequalities, the Japanese interment, banning the Hawaiian language, etc. The Hawai'i Constitution guarantees equal rights for all.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

From: Ken Jopling [kenxxden@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:36 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of SB 232 for Civil Unions in the state of Hawaii. My name is Ken Jopling from Kapa'a, Kauai and I have been in a monogamous, committed relationship with a man for 17 years in Hawaii that I have known for 27 years of my life. We are both professionals in health care and marriage/family counseling, own our home with mortgage and tax payments supporting our community and volunteer numerous hours of service to the island of Kauai.

I do not favor government sanction of marriage as this is a personal and religious matter. However I strongly support civil laws to allow us to share inheritance, ownership, medical coverage and family as well as to have protection from discrimination in housing, lending and law. This law will also protect the many children and families led by gay and lesbian couples. We have given tremendously to our community and feel we have earned the acknowledgement of our commitment to each other as well as to the stability of family in Hawaii.

Not only Hawaii but the entire country in this time of division, bullying and teen suicide needs to be reminded that the strength of our society lies in our diversity. The states across our great nation that have ratified Civil Unions have been enriched. Let Hawaii with our rich history of diversity of cultures and races join in this clear recognition of equality for all. Thank you again for this timely passage of SB232.

Ken Jopling, RN, BSN
6538 Kahuna Road
Kapa'a, Kaua'i. 96746

From: Thomas E. Chadwick [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:37 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Thomas E. Chadwick
Gastonia, NC

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Bernadette Guzman [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:38 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Bernadette Guzman
Los Angeles, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Marshall Garvey [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:38 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Marshall Garvey
Sacramento, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Dale Meinholz [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Dale Meinholz
Sun Prairie, WI

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Barbara Tomlinson [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:46 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Barbara Tomlinson
Seattle, WA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Susannah Kegler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:46 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Susannah Kegler
San Pedro, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Mac Roseborough [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:49 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Mac Roseborough
West Valley City, UT

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Alan Haggard [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:50 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Alan Haggard
San Diego, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Jessica Nyquist [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:57 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Jessica Nyquist
Colton, OR

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Lori Kegler [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:59 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Lori Kegler
San Pedro, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Carol Appel [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:07 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Carol Appel
los Angeles, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Cyndi Mears [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:09 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Cyndi Mears
Chicago, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: sussbusiness@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:17 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232

1500 West Kuiaha Road

I am writing to encourage you to allow SB232 to pass. I know that you will receive far more letters against this bill than for it, letters written primarily by members of well organized religious groups. However, this bill is not about religion but is about fairness for all citizens of Hawai'i, including minority groups. In order to let you know about some of these citizens, I would like to tell you a bit about me and my partner Kelly Watson.

I am a physician at the Maui Medical Group (MMG). I am a past President of MMG, and am currently Chair of the Department of Surgery at MMG. As such, I am a highly respected contributing member of the community. I am also a gay man. I met Kelly over 21 years ago when I was a resident training at the University of California, San Francisco. He and I have been together ever since. This is longer than many heterosexual unions. Our relationship is a happy, healthy and loving one. We are both accepted by our respective families. My partner operates a small farm here on Maui. We are good law abiding citizens. We contribute to the island. Why shouldn't people like us receive the same respect and benefits of heterosexual couples? Without the benefits of civil unions, I have already spent thousands of dollars on lawyers to protect our relationship. I am fortunate I can afford to do this. Many couples cannot.

Those opposed to the passage of this bill will make several arguments. I am going to take on the arguments against this bill one by one, and show that none are valid.

1) Religious Opposition to Same-Sex Civil Unions: This reason cannot, under our Hawaii Constitution, be used to justify a ban on same-sex civil unions. This is about a civil law, and does not affect religions, nor should religious views impact this law. Many religions recognize same-sex marriage, such as some Buddhists, Quakers, Unitarians, several branches of Christianity, and many Reform Jews. Why should the beliefs of some religions override the beliefs of other religions? Civil unions must be judged under standards of equal protection and not under religious doctrines or the religious views of individuals. This approach does not disrespect or denigrate the religious views of many citizens who oppose this bill. People can continue to associate with the religion that best reflects their views. A religious denomination can still define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, and a marriage ceremony performed by a minister, priest, rabbi, or other person ordained or designated as a leader of the person's religious faith does not lose its meaning as a sacrament. The sanctity of all religious marriages celebrated in the future will have the same meaning as those celebrated in the past. The only difference is a civil union will now take on a new meaning that reflects equal protection of the law.

2) Homosexuality is a "choice." This is false. Francis Collins, an evangelical Christian and respected geneticist best known for his leadership of the Human Genome Project, says: "the evidence we have at present strongly supports the proposition that there are hereditary factors in male homosexuality." I don't know any homosexual who "chose" to be homosexual any more than any heterosexual who "chose" to be heterosexual. In fact, many, including myself, tried unsuccessfully to fight our inner instincts and tried to be heterosexual. In addition, there is no good evidence that a homosexual can change and become heterosexual.

3) Civil unions and marriage are reserved for heterosexual couples because heterosexual couples can procreate: This is clearly false. If this were true, we would not allow any post-menopausal woman to marry. We would do the same for any person who had a hysterectomy or a sterilization procedure. We would require married couples to legally commit to have children, and if they didn't within a certain time frame we would automatically dissolve these marriages.

4) Opposite-sex couples are better at being parents: Those opposed to civil unions will claim that dual-gender parenting is the optimal environment for children. These opinions are unsupported by reliable scientific studies. The research supports the conclusion that same-sex couples foster the same wholesome environment as opposite-sex couples and suggests that the traditional notion

that children need a mother and a father to be raised into healthy, well-adjusted adults is based more on stereotype than anything else.

5) Allowing homosexual civil unions will harm "traditional" marriage: Once again, this is false. Studies from countries and states that already allow legal homosexual unions show clearly that this does not occur. In fact, studies show fewer divorces in many states after same sex marriages were permitted than there were before them. There is zero evidence that excluding gay and lesbian people from civil unions or marriage encourages stability in opposite sex relationships.

6) Conservation of resources: This argument is based on a simple premise: the state's fiscal burden is reduced if less people are allowed to join in a civil union. Excluding any group from civil unions/marriage—African-Americans, illegitimates, aliens, even red-haired individuals—would conserve state resources in an equally "rational" way. Yet, such classifications so obviously offend our society's collective sense of equality that today we would never consider restricting unions in such a way (although we did in the past.) The small impact on the state's finances should not override the state's more important goal of fairness and equality.

7) The people voted against this in the past: This is also false. The people voted against marriage. This bill is to permit civil unions. In addition, attitudes have changed markedly since the Hawaiian electorate voted against marriage. Public polls now universally show support for civil unions.

In summary, the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the institution of civil unions does not substantially further any important governmental objective. To the contrary, the passage of this bill will promote fairness and equality for all citizens of Hawai'i. I urge you to make the right choice and allow this bill to become law.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono.

Yours truly:

Stephen Sussman, M.D.

From: Mike Golojuch [mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:21 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

Bill number: S.B. 232
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Judiciary Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing of support of SB 232, relating to Civil Unions. Last year you took the steps to pass this measure only to have the past Governor sabotage your work for equal and social justice.

As a father of a gay son, it is time to give our gay and lesbian couples the same State economic rights enjoyed by others. Equality cannot be compromised. Passing the civil unions bill provides equal treatment for all committed couples and their families. This was supported by 81 percent of Hawaii residents in a previous QMark poll.

I do suggest that the present language of SB232 be replaced with the language contained in SB231. This will insure that the conforming amendments will be included in the bill.

Please allow civil rights to our citizens and have SB232 pass your Committee as soon as possible.

For those who consider civil unions the same as marriage ask them if our gay and lesbians couples will be entitled to all the federal rights that heterosexual married couples, like my wife and I, enjoy, the answer is no.

Thank you for listening and I know you will do what is right for all the people by pass the civil unions bill.

Sincerely

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

92-954 Makakilo Drive #71

Kapolei, HI 96707-1340

From: Kristin Bacon [baconk001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:28 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Dear Senate Committee,

I am writing as a long time member of Equality Hawai'i and I want you to know that I fully support SB232, Civil Unions and the granting of civil rights to all consenting couples of age, regardless of their gender.

To grant the same rights to each consenting of age couple in the State of Hawai'i would show each resident of this amazing State we live in that, in fact, Hawai'i is a place that truly lives up its incredible potential and promise. There is nobody left behind here in Hawai'i. Everyone can feel safe, legally protected, included and welcomed.

What an amazing opportunity to once again legally redress a very consequential social injustice and to create an inclusive, loving environment for all. This will lead to true peace, and a true path of unity.

I am a person of great faith, and feel very sure that any person of faith can have their personal views in their personal place of worship, but that as a society collectively, we can also all support social justice for all.

Thank you for making me so proud to live in the Aloha State by voting to support SB232!

Sincerely,

Kristin Bacon

baconk001@hawaii.rr.com

From: Tom Ramsey [tomramsey@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:31 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Tom Ramsey
Subject: RE: SB232, Relating to Civil Unions, Hearing Date Jan.25, 10:00 am

Re: SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions
Hearing Date: Tuesday, Jan. 25, 10:00 am

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Please approve SB 232.

Thank you for consideration the application of equal protection of the laws to all families, regardless of sexual orientation. Currently, reciprocal beneficiaries have access to only some legal protections. The missing protections include filing a joint state income tax form, access to family court for any of the matters adjudicated there, and equal access to employer-sponsored health insurance through his or her partner.

Your enactment of SB232 would not be an enactment of marriage. For example, none of the federally administered aspects of marriage (immigration, not testifying against a spouse, social security benefits for spouses, joint federal income tax returns) would be made available to members of a civil union. Factually, legally, civil union is simply not marriage.

Thank you for your time and kind attention.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Ramsey
1521 Alexander St Apt 503,
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Bill Ouellette [billat40@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria
Subject: testimony SB 232
Attachments: SB 232 Testimony Bill O..doc

Attached, please find my testimony which I have also pasted below.

Thank you,
Bill Ouellette

William Ouellette

Senate Judiciary Committee and Government Operations

Hearing: January 24, 2011, 10:00AM

Testimony Supporting SB 232

You are being asked to vote on Senate Bill 232 to allow civil unions in the state of Hawaii. I am writing today to ask for your affirmative vote.

Opponents of civil unions might argue, quite persuasively, that same sex unions must not be sanctioned by the state. The assumptions that inform this position are several and often rooted in religious doctrine that places a high value on the heterosexual couple that procreates. Of course, not all heterosexual unions result in children—because of biology or by choice. However, any heterosexual couple of consenting age may marry, even if they just met, even if they don't love each other. They simply have to pay the fee and prove that they're not related. And they may marry, within reason, where they wish, in a church or elsewhere. And that union may be blessed in a religious context or it may simply be legally sanctioned. And that couple may say, regardless of where and under what circumstances their union becomes officially recognized, that they have married. And that couple may continue to call their relationship a marriage as long as they two shall live. My partner, Bill, and I may not marry; nor, under current law, may we enjoy the legal benefits of a sanctioned union.

Perhaps opponents of civil unions might reconsider their position if they knew Bill and me. The issue might no longer represent such an abstraction. Bill and I have been together for eight years. We met at a going away party for a mutual friend. After some scheming, other friends put us together and we had a first date. A month or two later I caught the flu and Bill left work early to bring me cold medicines, popsicles and chicken soup. Except for business trips we haven't been apart since. I have children from an earlier marriage, and Bill has lovingly welcomed them into his life as his step-children. Both of our employers recognize us as a committed couple. He is uncle to my nieces and nephews, and I for his. My siblings, without hesitation, embraced him as brother-in-

law, and Bill's family was equally loving in their acceptance of me, when, the summer before last, we flew to Boston to marry each other in one of only five states where our marrying is legally allowed. Bill's family scraped together money to travel from the west coast to witness our wedding. Bill's younger brother, a devout Catholic, stood up as his best man, and his mother gave Bill away. My two children gave me away, my sister and brother-in-law, both clergy members, officiated, and my son played music during the service.

Regrettably, that ceremony was, in the eyes of the federal government and, more notably, here in Hawaii, merely symbolic.

What's remarkable about our story is that it is essentially like so many other peoples' stories. Like other people in committed relationships, I can't imagine my life without my partner, and I know he feels the same. We are lovers, companions, friends, and we are each other's husband, or at least we think of each other that way.

What we lack is not just a certificate, though. I dare say that those of you who are married regard your bond as deeply as Bill and I regard ours. Those of you who are waiting to marry understand, as we do, the commitment that the marriage certificate implies. Lawfully recognized or not, Bill and I will remain together, and should one of us require hospitalization, the other should be able, if required, to make end of life decisions for the other. Our fortunes should be combined. All the benefits that one spouse may share with the other should be ours, too. Lacking the legal acknowledgement of our union, we must rely on the good and reasonable discretion of hospital administrators, employers, family members and judges.

Bill and I know that we have loving, accepting and supportive families and friends whom we trust to do well by us. We also know other same sex couples who don't enjoy the kind of support we do.

As you consider your position on this issue, as you consider the vote you will cast, please understand that you are being called right now to rise above bigotry—yours or that of the constituent who presses you to vote against my civil rights because I happened to be born gay. You are being asked right now to respect the separation of church and state that is so foundational to our Democracy. As a representative of that system of government, you are being charged right now to show the same moral courage that the school administrator who protected the handful of African American children selected to attend an all-white school showed during the early days of desegregation, despite his deeply held belief that black students should not attend school with white students. It was his job, and he did it courageously. Please do your job. Please protect **all** our civil rights.

Respectfully yours,

William Ouellette

1212 Nuuanu Ave. #1108

Honolulu, HI 96817

348-3119

billat40@yahoo.com

From: Hal Young [hyoung439@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:42 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hearing - Jan. 25, 2011, 10 AM for SB 232

I am a retired person in Honolulu who believes in the EQUALITY of individuals - ALL individuals. There was a time in America when WOMEN were deprived of voting rights, and BLACKS were slaves and couldn't own land or vote.

The time has come now, in 2011, when LGBT partners in Hawaii can have the opportunity to enjoy economic and social rights similar to their heterosexual counterparts.

Please support SB 232. It is the RIGHT thing to do.

Thank you.

Hal Young

 *Hawaiian National Communications Corporation*
477 Opihikao Place Suite A
Honolulu, HI 96825
Tel (808) 741-4612 Fax (808) 395-4612
mrjoy@hawaii.rr.com

January 24, 2011

JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE
Conference Room 016
10 AM Tuesday,
January 25, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Les Ihara Jr
Senator Sam Slom

RE: "In Support of SB232."

Aloha Senators,

I'm writing in strong support of bill SB232.

Inasmuch as I was born into Jim Crow America and came of age in the Civil Rights Movement, I cannot stand idly by and not be concerned about anyone being denied equal rights for any reason.

Coretta Scott King said "*I have worked too long and hard against segregated public accommodations to end up segregating my moral concern. Justice is indivisible.*" Like Martin, I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others.
Washington, DC, June 23, 1994

So I see this bill as a step forward for freedom and human rights in our country and a logical extension of the Bill of Rights and the Civil Rights reforms of the 1950's and '60's. The great promise of American democracy is that no group of people will be forced to suffer discrimination and injustice.

Thank you so much for considering bill SB232.

Me ke aloha pumehana
MarshaRose Joyner
President emeritus Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition Hawaii
mrjoy@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 741-4612

From: Siobhán Ní Dhonacha [nidhonacha@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:49 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Dear Senate Committee,

I have been a member of Equality Hawai'i since 2008.

I want you to know that I fully support SB232, Civil Unions and ensuring that all people of the legal age in a committed relationship can have fair, meaningful and substantial legal recognition and protections, as do any other adult couples entering into a committed, private relationship.

It is now 2011 and more than time to acknowledge that people love who they love, and when that love turns into a lifetime commitment with shared assets and resources, there should be no fear if a sickness occurs or an accident and a trip to the hospital or an inheritance issue arises, or insurance rights are needed, or housing rights, or any of the many, many rights given to other couples when they commit to one another.

It is literally terrifying for a couple to be completely alone without true, equal protections when all around them are hundreds of thousands of people not worried about any part of their lives together in terms of legal protections and rights.

The stress is incredible and only people who really love each other would even dare to endure it for all of this time in the desert of having no legal or civil protections.

It is a civil issue, and if people have opinions that relate to their religious beliefs, please, let that be something that is respected, of course. But let it be reserved for that person's own private worship in their heart and their chosen faith. But let's not have that religious point of view be something that is used in the making of civil laws that are about civil rights and personal, loving commitments, as is involved with any committed relationship.

Thank you very much for your public service and please vote Yes on SB232!

Yours Sincerely,
Siobhán Ní Dhonacha

From: John Hinkle [flyboy@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:55 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of SB 232

In STRONG support of Senate Bill 232 (SB 232).

Talking Points

- Gay and lesbian Hawaii residents keep our communities safe as firefighters and police officers, staff our hospitals, build our cities, and pay taxes. Unfortunately, these individuals and their families are denied hundreds of protections and responsibilities offered by the state of Hawaii. We should extend these basic legal protections to all persons in Hawaii.
- The legislation allows committed same-sex couples, many of whom have been in a committed relationship for decades, to participate in medical decision making, to control the disposition of a deceased partner's remains, to visit a loved one in the hospital and to share a nursing home room. It is a simple matter of fairness to provide basic protections like these to all committed couples in our state. Real people are being denied these protections right now in Hawaii.
- Civil unions would allow same-sex couples the benefits and legal recognition they deserve without forcing people to lose needed pension benefits.
- Civil unions will have minimal fiscal impact to the State of Hawaii's budget. The Civil Unions Bill provides fairness and protection to same-sex couples without burdening taxpayers.
- Same-sex families with children need legal protections now. Currently, when a parent in a same- sex relationship dies, the surviving partner and their children are not guaranteed pensions and other survivor benefits. This uncertainty is not good for children; it undermines their financial health and well being.
- Since the time of the monarchy, Hawaii has demonstrated an historic commitment to increasing fair and equal treatment for all citizens. The Civil Unions Bill advances that tradition.
- It's about Fairness: It is a simple matter of fairness to provide basic protections like these to all committed couples in Hawaii.
- It's about Families. The Act will extend protections to children of same-sex couples, who are being penalized by marriage discrimination. Under the current state of the law, many gay and lesbian parents are unable to assume full legal parenting rights resulting in children being denied healthcare coverage from their parents' employers. Children are also being denied survivor benefits when a parent in a same-sex relationship dies.
- Allowing lesbian and gay couples to enter into civil unions does not threaten nor take away rights from married heterosexual couples. Granting the LGBT community to enter into civil unions does not weaken or destroy the marriage of heterosexuals.

- Some conservatives and religious fundamentalists argue because heterosexuals can procreate they should be entitled to marriage. Many heterosexuals cannot or do not wish to procreate. Should we ban them from marrying? Of course not because marriage is not about procreation -- it is about love and commitment between two people.
- Why shouldn't lesbian and gay people get the same protections under the law as heterosexual people?
- What's wrong with giving lesbian and gay couples in loving, committed relationships the same protections under the law as heterosexual couples?
- Why shouldn't a lesbian or gay person in a committed relationship be able to visit his or her partner in the hospital?
- Is it fair that lesbians and gay people who pay into the Social Security system their entire working lives don't get the same Social Security survivor benefits as their coworkers?

Myth: Civil unions are not needed in Hawaii because the law already protects lesbian and gay couples. For example, a partner can visit an ill partner in the hospital under state law.

Fact: Lesbian and gay couples do NOT receive recognition or protection under the current **Reciprocal Beneficiaries** state law. For example, a hospital can deny visitation rights to a partner trying to visit his or her ill partner in the hospital and be in accordance with state law.

Myth: If same-sex couples want the benefits and protections of marriage, same-sex couples can create these benefits and protections by contract.

Fact: While some of the benefits and protections of marriage can be created by contract, most state benefits and protections cannot be created by contract, including estate tax benefits, spousal testimonial privilege, the right to take family medical leave, and the right to share a nursing home with a partner. Furthermore, contracts that create these benefits and protections are extremely costly; the cost can run upward to the tens of thousands of dollars. Heterosexual couples can receive all of the state benefits and protections of marriage simply by paying the marriage license fee.

Sincerely,

John R. Hinkle
Honolulu, HI

From: TAMBRY [tambry@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:06 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: 'Tambry Young'
Subject: SB 232 - Testimony in SUPPORT of Civil Unions

Senate Bill No. 232 - Testimony in SUPPORT of Civil Unions

Hearing: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Room: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Judiciary and Labor Committee
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair- Judiciary and Labor Committee
Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Tambry R. Young, Native Hawaiian
Small Business Owner, Tidy Up Gang, LLC
Board Member, Citizens for Equal Rights
Girls Varsity Coach, Maryknoll High School Paddling Team

I would like to thank the Chair, Vice Chair, and all committee members for allowing me to provide testimony today on SB 232. This legislation is a courageous initiative that will continue to bring fairness, equality, and a richer quality of life to all individuals in Hawaii.

Same-sex partners, like married couples, choose a person to become their spouse for many of the same reasons. Love, companionship, interests, social and/or spiritual beliefs are just a few of those reasons. However, the most important commonality between same-sex couples and married couples is the desire to live a happy, fulfilling and productive life with the spouse they have chosen. It is this commonality that justifies the need for SB 232.

My name is Tambry Young and my partner of nearly 30 years, Suzanne King, and I made a commitment, as many married couples do, to love, honor and cherish each other 'til death do we part. We are both born and raised here, are raising our 11 year old daughter, own a home in the neighborhood I grew up in, run a small business with 5 employees, and are active members in community organizations.

We contribute to the economy and pay taxes, as married couples do. We care for our elderly parents and nurture the young in our extended families, as married couples do. We collectively pool our resources together to make our family stronger and better able to meet the demands of the future, like married couples do. We are just like many other married couples trying to live a happy, fulfilling and productive life with one exception, we do not have the equal benefits, rights, protections and responsibilities as married couples do.

SB 232 provides a mechanism that gives same-sex couples like Suzanne and I, the ability to reach and sustain a strong family unit by providing us with the same rights, benefits, responsibilities and protections that married couples have.

Therefore, I respectfully ask for your support of SB 232.

Tambry

Tambry R. Young
2343 Kula Kolea Drive, Honolulu, HI 96819
Email: tambry@hawaii.rr.com

From: Daniel Skaf [skafdaniel@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:11 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Sam Slom
Subject: Testimony Against SB 232

January 22, 2011

Greetings Senators of the Judicial Committee,

Please vote against Civil Unions Bill S.B. 232 and do not allow it to leave your committee. If passed S.B. 232 will force same –sex marriage on Hawaii. I do not believe the language in the bill which states, “it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage.” How can you expect the public to believe that when just last year this same legislature proposed H.B. 878? It reads, “this bill repeals language that defines or refers to marriage as being limited to a relationship between a man and a woman and instead specifies that the relationship is one between two persons.” Clearly redefining marriage is the goal of the legislature. It is also goal of Equality Hawaii and the ACLU:

“Family Equality Coalition is dedicated to securing *equal marriage rights* for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their families in Hawaii. We envision a Hawaii in which gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their families have full equality in all areas of the law.”

(Quote from Alan Spector & Paul Gracie Co-Chairs Family Equality Coalition)

In the mean time we have Civil Unions – the slippery slope to Same-Sex Marriage. Several states on the mainland are perfect examples of this: Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New Jersey started off trying to find a compromise, trying to be compassionate and fair by passing Civil Unions. In the end, they were stung by Same-Sex Marriage anyway.

In Vermont, the State Supreme Court legalized gay civil unions in July 2000. By 2009 it legalized Same-Sex Marriage. In Connecticut the State Legislature passed gay civil unions in April 2005. By October 2010, the State Supreme Court legalized Same-Sex Marriage. In New Hampshire, the legislature approved civil union in May of 2008. By January 2010 they legalized Same-Sex Marriage. In New Jersey, the State Legislature legalized civil unions in December 2006. By January 2010 activists submitted legislation for Same-Sex Marriage.

Am I the only one who sees a pattern here? Clearly a vote for Civil Unions is a vote to force same-sex marriage on Hawaii. Honorable Committee Members – is this what you really want to do? Do you want to have a hand in

legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in Hawaii? Is that what your constituents want? **Senator Hee** – you represent one of the most conservative Senate Districts in our state. Are you representing their concerns and interests in regards to S.B 232? **Senators Slom and Gabbard** represent conservation Senate Districts as well. **Senator Shimabukuro** – hundreds folks from your senate district sacrifice a lot and travel a long ways in rented school buses to the capitol year after to year to *oppose* civil unions and same-sex marriage.

I am standing before you here today to testify that a vote for civil unions is a vote to FORCE same-sex marriage on Hawaii - plain and clear. If you believe the people of Hawaii prefer Traditional Marriage then you cannot support S.B. 232. Across our nation, every time same-sex marriage was put to popular vote the people voted against it – including the state of Hawaii.

The proponents of gay marriage have done everything they can to get the general public to sanction their life-style. It hasn't worked. So now they change the focus from gay lovers wanting state sanction, to gay lovers with a child and calling the issue "Family Equality." They know that so often when people hear a sympathetic tag line like "Marriage Equality" or "Family Equality," people just accept it without doing any real reasoning and without considering the long-term affects. Please stay objective. I humbly urge each every one of you to represent the collective voice of your constituents and stop S.B. 232 today.

Mahalo,

Daniel Skaf

Waiialua, Oahu

From: genecmsph@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:13 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 232

January 23, 2001

Testimony in Support of SB232 on Civil Unions
Hawaii State Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

To the Senate Judiciary Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB232 on Civil Unions. As gay Filipino American man living in Hawaii for over 23 years, I believe the time is overdue to pass this bill which would provide equal benefits to the responsible gay and lesbian citizens in committed relationships in the State of Hawaii. I urge passage of SB 232 for the following reasons:

- 1) My partner and I have been together for over 20 years. We obtained our Reciprocal Beneficiary certificate in 1998 and could obtain some benefits, largely through my partner's membership in HGEA as a retired State employee. However, as an employee of HMSA, they told me that the certificate did not qualify me to claim any spousal benefits such as family leave, health coverage, bereavement leave, 401 K, etc. HMSA did finally allow domestic partners to add health coverage for their partners, but additional spousal benefits are not guaranteed. I feel that Hawaii should do the right thing and grant committed couples the rights and responsibilities given to heterosexual couples.
- 2) The civil union's bill would not redefine marriage since churches would not be forced to perform civil union ceremonies but could perform them out of choice through proper registration. Civil unions could also be granted through government agencies. However, as a member of Dignity Honolulu (LGBT Catholics) we are religious/spiritual group in support of equal rights for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, and therefore support this bill on civil unions.
- 3) Passing civil unions would stimulate the economy due to increased tourism, increase in business related to celebrations (florists, caterers, party planners, etc.) and the revenues collected from civil union licenses. Since increasing jobs in Hawaii will be the focus of this legislative session, it would be a win-win situation for the State of Hawaii if this bill is passed.

Again, I urge you to support this bill to show that Hawaii cares for its citizens in all its diversity.

Sincerely,

Gene Corpuz
Health Educator
HMSA/ISI
1139 9th Ave., #1602
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-734-7313
GeneCMSPH@aol.com

From: Bryan Snowden [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:20 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Bryan Snowden
Granbury, TX

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: anjelamor@gmail.com on behalf of Briana [bmonroe@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:23 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232

In support of SB232

I am writing in support of SB232. I want to thank the committee for your consideration of my written support.

This issue is near to my heart as my mother is a lesbian who came out of the closet 8 years ago. My father is on his third marriage after being unfaithful to all of his previous wives. Nowhere in the logic of my mind does it make sense that he is allowed all of the thousands of benefits a marriage can offer a committed couple, yet my mother is deemed a second class citizen for being true to herself, for being happy, and for wanting to share her life with someone.

After a bad accident, my mother had previously been denied health insurance coverage because she did not fall under the category of a heterosexual relationship with her partner. She had to carry the burden of being self-employed and struggling with the financial burden of her injuries.

When our laws cannot protect families, children, and the households they are raised in any longer, it is time for a change. I can only hope that Hawai'i will pave the way for future states to offer her the same protections and benefits under the law that traditional couples are afforded and in doing so, will help other states to realize how they can better strengthen their own families.

My mother is happier and more true to herself than she ever was previously being married and I want her to be respected in all areas of her life- in a hospital if her partner runs into any health issues, for her end of life wishes, and for benefits offered any other opposite sex couple, such as those my father and his wife are currently allowed.

Under this bill, future couples could be granted legal rights for protection of their children to prevent legal battles, be respected for end of life issues, and the multitude of other health, tax and legal rights homosexual couples might gain. No longer do same sex couples need to be treated and reminded to be less than heterosexual couples in any way.

This bill is not about changing the face of marriage for others, but about showing equal respect and dignity to all loving, committed couples. It's being able to give the same chance, protections, and legal rights to couples and children and to help Hawai'i be a more tolerant, loving place for all Hawai'i families.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support,

Briana Monroe
1515 Nu'uuanu Ave #133
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: David Hee [dhee@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:38 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Dear Governor Abercrombie,
and members of the senate,

I am a Gay Man who has experienced much abuse and mistreatment from the religious conservative community.

Many of them feel that Civil Unions should not be legalized because of their beliefs.

And as long as Civil Unions continue to be illegal, they will continue to abuse their influence and bigotry.

I am begging all of you to stand up for what is right, and give the Gay community the rights that we

have worked so hard to fight for.

By keeping it illegal you are showing your support for homophobic and prejudiced hypocrites.

So Please,

GIVE US OUR RIGHTS!!!

-David

UH Hilo

From: David Monk [dbmonk49@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony on SB232 (Civil Unions), January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Re: SB232, Civil Unions, hearing on January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

We have been married over thirty years and do not regard the civil unions bill 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

From: kristen davies [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:11 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

kristen davies
Chicago, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Judiciary January 22, 2011
From: Debi Hartmann, Executive Director, Democratic Party of Hawai`i
Re: SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions

My name is Debi Hartmann, I am the Executive Director for the Democratic Party of Hawai`i. I am representing approximately 60,000 registered democrats across these Islands. At our State Convention in May, 2010 we passed our new Platform that states in part:

The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace.

We support full equality and non-discrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community to equality before the law, including the right to equal relationship recognition, such as that set forth in House Bill 444 relating to Civil Unions.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i supports the intent and purpose of SB 232 and at the same time recognizes the need to strengthen sections that speak of equality, yet do not address the important issues of implementation and the protection of children.

We respectfully request your committee's consideration in inserting language that would strengthen SB 232.

Mahalo for your consideration of our request.

From: Debi Hartmann [director@hawaiidemocrats.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:21 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232
Attachments: SB232Jud.doc

Attached is my testimony for:

SB 232
Hearing Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Rm 016
Senate Judiciary Committee

Debi Hartmann
Executive Director
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
808 596-2980

From: Sally Waitt [naniwait@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:37 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL UNIONS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL UNIONS AND SB232

My name is Sally Waitt, a retired teacher, and I am testifying in support of SB232. Mahalo for taking the time for this hearing and for considering and accepting my testimony in this manner. Today we are again embarking of the journey to provide equality and respect for every person through the passage of SB232. I would like to offer the following testimony:

As a teacher at Wahiawa Elementary in the late 1960's and early 1970's-(to which my former student, Rep. Marcus Oshiro can attest), and to the other schools at which I taught--Laupahoehoe High for twenty years, and after retirement and being asked by Principal Jerry Sakamoto, two years at Honokaa High School, Waimea Special Education and Kealakehe High School. My own children attended and graduated from Waiialua High School and Laupahoehoe, and I now have grandchildren and great-grandchildren at Kipapa, Mililani, Waikoloa, and Kealakhe High Schools. I am a strong supporter of public education.

During these years a disturbing and heart-breaking picture of harassment and bullying of gay and lesbian students emerged. As I worked with these students, I found that some were afraid their parents would discover their gayness and throw them out, and this did actually happen. Others were afraid to make an issue of it with the administration for fear they would be harshly treated. Even as I became close to some of these families and was rewarded by their understanding, in school, problems persisted. Most of these problems came from gays not being accepted by our society. When I attempted to talk with the parents of some of the harassers, I discovered that the parents had no real problem with what their children were doing; the prejudices of the parents were being carried out through their children.

I have worked with families over the years and had some difficult times, but nothing came near to the heart-wrenching and disturbing sights I have witnessed over the years as parents--and yes, church leaders, have come to the Capitol with children to demonstrate, ridicule, and harass gays, lesbians and the supporters of civil unions. These children will go back to school to look down on gay and lesbian students and perhaps to be their harassers. We are better than that! We MUST DO BETTER. This lack of respect of all of our people is disgraceful.

We must go forward with the passage of SB232 and see that Civil Unions are a respected part of our laws. Legislators must want to be a part of this forward thinking legislation to grant equality and respect to all of our children, youth, and adults here in Hawaii. We are the state known for aloha and our love of all people. We need to value all families and support them by passing SB232. This action will validate the aloha of which we are so proud.

We talk about Chapter 19. It is not happening. One reason is that principals often do not want to bring attention to the fact that there is any problem in their school. They do not call for outside help and tend to whitewash situations. Without support, teachers have a difficult time.

Mahalo for accepting and carefully considering my testimony in this important matter. We are growing as people and coming together to support all of our Hawaii citizens as well as visitors to our state. SB232 must pass. Thank you so very much.

Sally J Waitt
68-1720 Halona Place
Waikoloa< HI 96738
808-896-0164

From: Andreia Capelo [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:50 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Andreia Capelo
Funchal, Portugal

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: David Henkin [davidlhenkin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:30 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

My name is David Henkin, and I write in strong support for Senate Bill 232.

I am a married man who does not believe that my wife and I should receive special rights and privileges from the state merely because we are heterosexual. All couples who commit to sharing the challenges of life together should be treated equally and with dignity.

I am the father of two children who does not want my keiki to grow up in a Hawai'i that discriminates between its citizens based on the sex of the person that they love. Rather, I want them to grow up in a Hawai'i that celebrates the diversity of its people.

Please pass civil unions. It is long overdue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
David Henkin

From: Suzanne [sking@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:59 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 - Testimony in SUPPORT of Civil Unions

Senate Bill No. 232 - Testimony in SUPPORT of Civil Unions

Hearing: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Room: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Judiciary and Labor Committee
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair- Judiciary and Labor Committee
Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Suzanne King, Native Hawaiian
Board Member, Citizens for Equal Rights

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to come before you to testify in support of SB 232.

My name is Suzanne Kalikolehua King. I am a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawaii. I come before you today because SB 232 is important legislation that impacts me personally and my family.

Back in 1981, when I came out to my parents, my father disowned me and we did not speak for over a year. Over the years, I missed family holiday celebrations, I missed the King Family reunion because Tambry was not allowed to attend, we have been harassed by HPD, and have been treated with disrespect as a couple by many businesses over the course of our lives together. As you can see, living as a gay couple in Hawaii is not an easy life. Why anyone thinks that one would choose to be gay is beyond me. I didn't choose to be gay - it's just who I am.

For nearly 30 years, longer than many married couples and longer than any of my four siblings, Tambry and I have lived here in Hawaii, our home, as life partners. When we got together, I gave up hopes of having a family. But as with all things, over time, you can realize possibilities that previously did not exist. 18 years later, in 1999, our daughter Shylar Kalikolehua Young, was born.

While Tambry was still pregnant with Shylar, we started legal action to protect our equal rights as parents. In 2000 we were fortunate to be granted one of the first same-sex co-parent adoptions in Hawaii. Although it took a few months, we eventually received Shylar's amended birth certificate which I still carry with me every day in my wallet. In 2000, we were a happy family and felt safe and protected.

On December 23, 2008, our lives changed forever as we became aware of the civil unions bill about to be introduced in the legislature. It opened our eyes to all the many benefits, rights and protections that we were missing and how really vulnerable our family was.

Since that time, we realize there is no going back for us – we have an obligation as Shylar's parents to do everything within our power to ensure that Shylar's family is as equal as her best friend Will's family, as her cousins Ryan, Kyle, David, Ho'oulu, Keali'i, Marie, Nicole, Daniel, Kamana, Keao, Kaipo and Ava's families.

Our 11-year old daughter has had to listen to adults say that because she has 2 mommies she will have no friends, that she will be a problem child. She knows that's not true. Her generation gets it. Her classmates, their parents and her teachers get it.

In Shylar's words, she asks us Mommy, what is the big deal? God created us all equal. That's what I learned at Maryknoll. It's not going to hurt anyone. A woman doesn't have to love a woman if they don't want to. You should just be able to be love whoever you want.

And yes last November Tambry and I did get married in Massachusetts with Shylar right there with us. She was so proud of her family. It's important and means a lot to children to have their family treated the same as other families.

So maybe when we visit Massachusetts our family is equal, but Hawaii is where we live, it's our home, and that's where we need our family to be treated equally. Families have a tough time as it is succeeding these days. Discrimination by the State of Hawaii of our GLBT families just adds to the challenges our families face.

The opportunity to start ending the discrimination of all GLBT families in Hawaii begins today with you. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 232.

Mahalo.

Suzanne

Suzanne King

2343 Kula Kolea Drive, Honolulu, HI 96819

Email: sking@hawaii.rr.com

From: J. Shiroma [shiromajulie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:09 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232

Dear Sirs,

Please oppose bill SB232.

I am against the bill because I do not believe in same sex marriage. For future generation ahead of us please do not allow this bill to be passed.

Mahalo,

Julie Shiroma

From: R.Shiroma [shiroma2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:55 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Maile Shimabukuro; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; Sen. Sam Slom
Subject: Vote NO to SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions

Aloha Senate Judiciary Committee;
Committee Chair Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Gabbard, Senator Ihara, and Senator Slom:

The purpose of my **URGENT MESSAGE** today regards my strong opposition against SB 232. It is an even more urgent testimony, which I give before your committee 2-years ago, Feb. 2009 against HB 444.

I am born and raised here in Honolulu, Hawai'i. I am a husband, a father, and humble servant in the community.

In 1998, I voted for the defense of traditional marriage. And we the people of Hawai'i clearly voted for marriage between one man and one woman, and the prevention of same sex-marriages.

As I testify here today, it is obvious that this matter is of great concern to the future of our great state. So many people have taken valuable time to speak out to you that you may hear, and testify that you may see. This decision and committee is honored and revered as holding the key to our future. If you rightfully serve the people of Hawai'i, you should agree with us and vote NO on SB 232, and let the people of Hawai'i's voice be known.

Also know that there are many prayers crying out that YOU make the right decision. While many have revealed the Word of the LORD to you. I implore you to also ask the LORD to reveal His will to you. So I know you will take the time to whole-heartedly lead a charge against this law and render the needs of our people.

If SB 232 is made law, I know that innocent keiki and 'opio will be impacted in such a way that will break down generational family values, impair their lifestyles and endanger the foundations of our community and state. I hope you will do the right thing for our people and for our children, and our children's children, and for our future!

And the **urgent message** today is... to lead us away from this abomination.

A vote for civil unions equals a vote for same-sex marriage. If you do not support same-sex marriage, you should vote NO on SB 232. I sincerely ask you to do just that - VOTE NO on SB 232.

A federal district court judge in California ruled that the Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriages violated the equal protection provisions of the U.S. Constitution. As we've seen in California, not even constitutional amendments protecting marriage are safe from activist courts. The people of Hawai'i and the majority of our elected officials still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman. If this is not about undermining and redefining marriage, why would the language of the marriage law be used to create civil unions?

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Please vote NO to the civil union law SB 232.

Mahalo nui loa,

Randy Shiroma
Hawai'i Resident

From: kaleoinhonolulu@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:58 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: SD 232

Aloha,

This email is in regards to my testimony re: SD232 Civil Unions I have been with my Husband Greg for now 6 years, and have been married for 3 of those wonderful years.

We live a very monogamous life, and we are very much in loved with each other.

The reason why I call him my Husband is because we got married at Church of the Crossroads, and in the eyes of our Church we are married in the eyes of God. Please pass this Civil Unions Bill so I can be treated with equality like everyone else. It is in my humble opinion, We need to be treated with dignity and respect and with loving kindness, and we deserve all our rights as everyone else. Since we pay for them with our taxes.

Much Mahalo

Kaleo Gagne & Gregory Feast

PS I know you will do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do.
plus You will Have Governor Abercrombie's Support

From: Aaron Galvin [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:50 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Aaron Galvin
Leo, IN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Nina Lomando-Grigoreas [nicksrhian1@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:11 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

To whom it may concern:

My step-brother is a prod gay male living in Hawaii... I support him and his partner and their right to a civil union... Please support Bill 232 on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10AM, in Conference Room 016of the State Capitol.

~Thank you,



*Nina Lomando-Grigoreas
28 Oak Drive
Mansfield Center, CT 06250-1516
(860) 465-5686 (Home)
(860) 336-1110 (Cell)
(860) 429-0218 (Work)*

From: Kris Coffield [fracturedpolitics@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:31 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 Testimony
Attachments: testimony-SB232.docx

Aloha,

Attached to this e-mail is my testimony for SB 232, which is being heard on Tuesday, January 25 at 10 a.m. by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor in conference room 016. Mahalo!

--

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 232, RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, editorial director of Fracturedpolitics, an emergent political action network born out of a weblog. Currently, the network boasts over 50 local members, though I offer this testimony only on behalf of myself, in support of SB 232, with consideration for minor changes.

Simply put, it is time for Hawaii to end institutionalized discrimination based on sexual orientation by granting all of the state-sanctioned rights, responsibilities and protections of marriage to same-sex couples. Since 1993, when the Hawaii Supreme Court held, in *Baehr v. Miike*, that the state held no compelling interest in denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the Aloha State has been at the forefront of the debate over gay rights. Local lawmakers have taken bold steps to advance that cause, following the court's ruling, including the enactment of a reciprocal beneficiaries registration for adults enjoined from marriage, thereby extending a number of rights to such beneficiaries—inheriting rights, workers compensation, health insurance, hospital visitation and pension benefits, just to name a few. Nonetheless, reciprocal beneficiaries are recognized as tantamount only to domestic partnerships in most states, even those that solemnize civil unions.

Economically, civil unions could be a boon to the state's struggling bottom line. According to a study conducted by the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA, 272 same-sex couples are likely to enter into civil unions almost immediately, with the number increasing to 1,285 couples over the first four years of license issuance. Celebrations, according to the institute, would bring in between \$4.2 million and \$9.5 million over the same time period, with invited guests infusing an additional \$17.8 million to \$40.3 million into the state, most of which would be spent on hotels, food and entertainment. While such an amount pales in comparison to the \$12 billion total in tourism profits earned in 2010, it is, nevertheless, significant, particularly when you consider that these figures, at the high end, would fall just \$17 million short of the \$67 million released by Gov. Neil Abercrombie, earlier this year, to restore 17 instructional days lost to furloughs. Granted, local businesses would see a marginal increase in the cost of spousal benefits (approximately 1 percent, according to the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization) under the collocation of civil unions, but this raise in rates is more than counterbalanced by an estimated 193 to 333 new jobs created by civil union spending and

potential savings on means-tested statewide benefits programs, like Medicaid. As *Hawaii Business Magazine* noted in its first issue of the year, the New Hampshire state government saved nearly \$400,000 in Medicaid costs once civil unions were legalized.

Please do not be swayed by the argument that civil unions are, or lead to, same-sex marriage. On the contrary, couples engaging in a civil union are not eligible for the same federal tax breaks as married couples and, instead, must file their federal tax returns as “single” or “head of household.” Moreover, same-sex couples cannot apply for federal Social Security survivor benefits in the event of a family member’s death, even when children are involved. Finally, the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services does not allow permanent residents to sponsor same-sex non-American partners, a right reserved for heterosexual marriages. Unfortunately, the Hawaii Family Forum, among others, has chosen to ignore these facts, running pernicious ads equating civil unions with same-sex marriage. Ironically, HFF was recently fined \$20,000 for violating political expenditure limits placed upon 501(c)(3) organizations, and remains under investigation for pursuing legislative goals under the guise of religious non-profit work. Clearly, HFF ignored those facts, too, and I encourage the committee, if possible, to delve deeper into the group’s blithe indifference toward our system of law, even if it means supporting the retraction of HFF’s non-profit status.

One concern I have with SB 232, as written, entails the addition of the phrase “persons who stand in relation to each other **of ancestor and descendant of any degree whatsoever**” to section § -3. Genetically speaking, two persons of the same species are invariably related to one another, even at great distance. Painful as it is to acknowledge the presence of systemic bigotry in our islands, I fear that the inclusion of this phrase creates a precedent for ardent opponents of civil unions to seek a comprehensive juridical enjoinder by distorting the intention of this clause through a manipulation of scientific reasoning. As an alternative, I suggest adopting more rigidly defined consanguinity regulations by voiding civil unions between persons of first-cousin kinship or higher on standard kinship tables.

In summation, civil unions are not an ulterior vehicle for same-sex marriage, but are merely an admission of civil rights. Today, sexual orientation and gender are sites of continual contestation, despite myriad attempts to discipline sexuality within what can only be referred to as a panopticed, hierarchical biopolitical order, in which imperative corporeal expressions resistant to patrician textual fields are concurrently naturalized and suppressed. If we are to fulfill the dream of a truly just society, this cannot continue to transpire.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Editorial Director
Fracturedpolitics

From: Jennifer Hall [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:41 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Jennifer Hall
Greeneville, TN

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Ron Whitmore [whitmo17@msu.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 4:37 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB232 hearing on January 25, 10 am

My position: Support
Bill number: S.B. 232
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

I am straight, white, middle-class male who is happily married with two young children. I believe that civil unions are a civil rights issue -- that all people should have the same rights, opportunities, and privileges, regardless of their sexual orientation. Please advance SB232.

Ron Whitmore
113 Alae St.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Dan Jones [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 5:10 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Dan Jones
Sonoma, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Tracey Bennett [tracey2@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 5:11 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232

Senate Bill 232, A Bill For An Act Relating to Civil Unions

Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for letting me testify. My name is Tracey Bennett, and I am in support of SB 232 - Civil Unions.

Thank you for considering this long-overdue bill. These rights should have been given to same-sex couples years ago. In 1996, we had a two-week trial about whether the state had the right to deny marriage to couples. Based on the state's evidence, Judge Kevin Chang had to rule that gays are entitled to the rights and benefits—yes, and obligations, too—of marriage.

Don't let anybody tell you that civil union is marriage by another name. If they're married, I invite them to swap their marriage license for a civil union and see how they like it, especially if they travel to a state where their union is not recognized.

Please give us the rights and benefits that Judge Chang said we're entitled to. Passing it will take courage because a few of your constituents will complain. Loudly. But most of your constituents quietly support civil unions for gay people. Even president Obama supports this important civil rights issue. I hope you do too.

Aloha,

Tracey Bennett

Hawaii Kai

From: Brockner, Charles R Mr CIV USA MEDCOM TAMC [Charles.Brockner@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 6:07 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Dear Elected Officials-

I implore you to stop SB232. The people have spoken on this issue, and to allow same sex marriage will doom our state and nation. To vote for same sex marriage is voting for sin to flourish in our state. For those who oppose God's intentions will reap the consequences. As you vote, I humbly ask that you consider this, so that God will not withdraw His hand of blessings from us.

Sincerely,
Charles Brockner

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

From: Alvin Toda [aet002@clearwire.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 6:39 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

The time is long past to correct this inequity in Hawaii.

al toda

From: Ed Zink [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 6:41 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Ed Zink
Vista, CA

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Orgill, Von [orgillv@polynesia.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 6:54 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Orgill, Von
Subject: Opposition to SB 232 - Civil Unions - Hearing Date: 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Aloha,

It is with deep concern that I respectfully request the State Senate NOT approve SB 232 relating to Civil Unions. It has been evident in a number of other states that such a measure is a step towards the legalization of same-sex marriage. I firmly believe in the importance of protecting the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman and I ask the Senate to help protect traditional marriage by voting in opposition to SB 232.

With warm aloha and deep respect,

Von Orgill

Von Orgill
President & CEO
Polynesian Cultural Center
55-370 Kamehameha Highway
Laie, Hawaii 96762

(808) 293-3350 (office)
(808) 293-3099 (fax)
(808) 554-3350 (cell)

orgillv@polynesia.com
www.polynesia.com

From: Russ Seeney [seeneyr2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:14 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

TIME: 10:00 A.M to completion

PLACE: Conference Room 016, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Committee: Room: 016
Hearing Date: 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Name: Russell Seeney
Email Address: seeneyr2004@yahoo.com
Verify Email Address: seeneyr2004@yahoo.com
Individual
Phone Number: 732-2127
Street: 2317 Palolo Ave
City, State: Honolulu Hawaii
Testifier Position Support: Oppose

Will you be present at the hearing? No

Testimony Additional Comments:

- o A vote for civil unions is a vote for same sex marriage in Hawaii.
- o Every time a civil union bill has been imposed on a state, demands for same sex “marriage” have followed.
- o 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.
- o The foremost activists pursuing civil unions are being funded by a Colorado billionaire who has given millions to impose same sex “marriage” nationwide.
- o The people of Hawaii and the majority of our elected officials still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

From: Maria F. [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:25 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Maria F.
Verona, Italy

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: james m nordlund [mailto:mail@change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

james m nordlund
Fargo, ND

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Gary Okabayashi [garlen.gary@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 7:39 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

January 24, 2011

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI:

Aloha, Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Okabayashi, and I am a resident of the State of Hawaii. I support SB 232, relating to civil unions, and thank you for considering this bill at your hearing on January 25, 2011, at 10:00 am.

I was born and grew up in Honolulu, attended Kalani High School, and graduated from the University of Hawaii. Having worked both in Hawaii and New York, I am now retired. In short, I am a typical citizen of the State.

I also have a partner, Lenny Zimmerman, and we have been together for over 32 years. Enactment of a civil unions law is of the highest priority for us. Most importantly, this is a matter of civil rights -- we would no longer feel that we are second-class citizens. Instead, we would have a sense of pride and integrity because the State has finally recognized us as individuals equal to all others. Civil unions would recognize the committed relationship that we have had since August 1978.

I urge this Committee to act favorably with respect to civil unions. This first step must be taken to ensure that Hawaii does indeed have aloha for everyone.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,
Gary Okabayashi

1551 Ala Wai Blvd #2304
Honolulu, HI 96815
garlen.gary@gmail.com

KAT BRADY
P.O. BOX 37313
HONOLULU, HI 96837
katbrady@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Room 016

10:00 a.m.

SB 232 – Civil Union

STRONG SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS

JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying on my own behalf today and as a proud member of Citizens for Equal Rights and a strong advocate for justice.

Mahalo nui for introducing this bill that comports with the Hawai`i State Constitution's equality provisions. I serve on many community and government boards and as a member have taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, as have you and all legislators.

I strongly support civil unions and have been studying this issue for many years. The amendments I urge you to insert in this legislation are those found in SB 231. Those amendments more clearly address the issues that were raised in prior sessions.

As a justice advocate, I have been working for my whole life to build strong and healthy communities. It would, therefore, make me proud that Hawai`i passed a civil unions bill supporting equality for all Hawai`i's families on my birthday!

Please pass SB 232 with the amendments in SB 231.

Let's ensure equal justice for all of Hawai`i's families!

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.

From: Nicole McMullen [nicolemcmullen1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 8:58 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 232

Aloha,

I am a straight working professional, and I support equal rights for all people. Civil Unions will give loving and committed couples the same rights as married couples and will allow them to care properly for their families. Civil Unions will strengthen families and society. In supporting Civil Unions, you will be doing what the majority of your constituents want. Mahalo for doing the right thing.

Nicole McMullen
Kihei, HI

From: Rita Kama-Kimura [seeknfind@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:00 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Rita Kama-Kimura
Subject: Civil Union Bill SB 232

Civil Union Bill SB232
NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M to completion
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Monday, Jan. 24th. 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

- ◆ **Once again on the agenda is the Civil Union Bill. This time appearing as SB 232 Once again there is another attempt of the state legislature to ignore the will of the people of Hawaii. Once again I ask that this bill be opposed.**
- ◆ **Those who choose to live a homosexual life style are free to do so. Same sex couples who live together already have all benefits in the Reciprocal Beneficiary Act HRS 572C, including hospital visitation rights.**
- ◆ **What this bill really represents is a step towards legalizing same sex marriage.**
- ◆ **What they are asking for is not tolerance but submission from the right to include but limited to indoctrination of our young through an already questionable education system.**
- ◆ **To say this bill only represents civil union is either naïve or being less than truthful.**
- ◆ **At the national level we already see the ground being laid with the appointment of Kevin Jennings, as safe school czar.**
- ◆ **As the Executive Director and Founder of GLSEN (gay lesbian & straight education network) could you really with peace of mind place your child in the care of this man?**
- ◆ **I believe this will also put our most vulnerable, our most innocent, our children at risk through adoption by same sex couples. Are you comfortable with that as well?**
- ◆ **Traditional Families and Traditional Values are the backbone of Hawaii and of this great nation. To turn away from this would be to open the door to all kinds of sexual relationships and perversion.**
- ◆ **We the people deserve an honest and open debate.**

As a Christian mother and grandmother, is it quite obvious, that this is not just a political issue but a

moral issue and contrary to what many would like to believe the two cannot be separated. This decision will define who we are as a people and as a society.

Our founding fathers knew this and the American people understand this:

Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is an abomination

... Lev. 18:22

Wherefore God also gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ... Roman 1:24

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ... Roman 1:26

In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. ... Roman 1:27

I again in closing I implore you to vote/oppose this bill.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rita L. Kama-Kimura
Mililani**



From: Department Of Political Science [polisci@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:01 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: support

Be sure to include the following details in your testimony:

Your position: Support

Bill number: S.B. 232

Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Time: 10 a.m.

Room number: Room 016

Storm Stoker

University of Hawai`i at Manoa

Department of Political Science

From: Malia Schroeder [maliaschroeder@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:05 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony SB232 Jan 25 2011 @ 10am est

All people deserve to be treated with respect. That's all this comes down to. Not business revenue or a brain drain or tourism. This is about human rights, human dignity, and respect for our fellow human beings. A civil unions law will harm no one except those that advocate inequality and injustice. I am pro-equality, pro-justice and pro- SB232.

From:
Malia Schroeder
1618 Citron Street #4
Honolulu HI 96826
1 808 258 3711

--
Malia

From: Barbara Bruno [barb@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:15 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I support S.B. 232

Aloha Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I would like to state my position in support of the civil unions bill. This bill is necessary to defend the civil rights of same-sex couples and ensure the unity, security, dignity and stability of all Hawaii's families. Here are the relevant details.

My position: Support
Bill number: S.B. 232
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

Thank you for noting my support of this important civil rights issue.
Aloha,
Barbara Bruno

From: Tom Gibson [studiogibson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:10 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: in support of SB232

Big Mahalo to the committee for considering SB232

Even though economic issues are number one in our community right now this important embracing of all our community members is a powerful peaceful act for the health of our families. This elimination of discrimination is so essential to the coming together and continued growth of our society.

As a gay man I learned to accept my difference and make a life where and how I could. But as a gay father I want for my straight Son to feel that our society honors all parents equally. He knows that our government does not respect his father as it does other men. He suffers needlessly at the narrow definition of what is family. Especially since he knows different. He is loved and supported like any other caring family. That is what I would like you to support.

We have seen all through history that any end to institutional discrimination has always resulted in a healthy step forward for everyone.

Less judgment; more opportunity to work together for a better community for our kids. Civil unions will support families.

Thank you for creating this forum and peace be with you.

Thomas M Gibson
808-284-8129
PO Box 11856, Honolulu, HI 96828

From: Robert Rameyer [bobrameyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:28 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

I'm writing in support of SB232 and want to thank the committee for considering this bill and reading my testimony. My partner and I have been together for 16 years and we want nothing more than what our straight married friends, family members, and fellow citizens already have. We want the state to recognize that our relationship is just as meaningful and important to the well being of society....that our commitment is just as strong and worthy of the same rights and responsibilities....that our love is just as valid and honorable. The state has a responsibility to end discrimination against a minority group. That is what SB232 will do. Last year, the state came very close to providing equality to same sex couples. This year, the people elected a governor who supports a civil unions bill and has declared that he will sign such a bill into law. This is the year to make equality a reality. And to make the state of Hawaii truly the Land of Aloha. Mahalo for your consideration.

Bob Rameyer
3006 Pualei Cir #209
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Brian & Cheryle [bcssobrien@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:29 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 - JDL Committee Hearing : 1/25/11, 10:00 a.m.
Attachments: sb232.rtf; ATT00001.txt

Monday, January 24

Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Hearing SB 232 Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senate Committee,

The rights and privileges of marriage, as far as the State of Hawaii can legally extend, are already available to couples, gay, straight, sibling and parental, through Reciprocal Beneficiary Relationship registration. So why the urgency with the Civil Unions bill?

Is this truly a matter of civil or equal rights? The U.S. Supreme Court does not seem to think so. In the matter of Baker vs. Nelson, the high court concluded that homosexuals as a minority "did not merit special consideration under the law." This 1972 decision still sets precedence for the nation's lower courts to follow.

The "Defense of Marriage" Act passed by Congress prohibits federal recognition of same-sex unions, thus civil partners would remain ineligible for federal benefits. Civil unions performed in Hawaii would still not be recognized in the majority of other states, and in many foreign countries.

If SB 232 is eventually signed into law, can local county governments be legally obligated to implement it into policy? Can non-government employers and businesses in this state, already struggling in this economic downturn, be compelled to provide additional benefits? And can the State, grappling with a severe budget shortfall, accept the burden of providing the entitlements granted in this bill to civil partners in its employ?

Until our state legislature can honestly answer these questions in the affirmative, SB 232 is both unrealistic and premature. That being said, I ask again, why the urgency to pass this bill? If SB 232 cannot legally extend any rights and privileges beyond the Reciprocal Beneficiary Relationship statute, what do same-sex couples stand to gain from it?

I suspect "a foot in the door." SB 232 may be nothing more than gateway legislation. Civil union proponents have stated unreservedly that making same-sex marriage legal in the state of Hawaii is the ultimate goal. As soon as Governor Abercrombie signs SB 232 into law, as he has pledged, there will almost certainly be a push for same-sex marriage.

As your committee reviews SB 232, I ask that you seriously assess its legal viability and implications, and consider the far-reaching impact, both social and economic, its passage will have on our islands and its people. I encourage our legislature to, instead, revisit and strengthen the Reciprocal Beneficiary Relationship statute to more adequately meet the needs of our gay, lesbian and transgendered neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle O'Brien
357 Keolu Dr.
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 262-2445

From: kauaiboy4200@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:33 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha:

My name is Joseph Savino and I am writing in support of SB 232. Civil Unions is not a "gay" issue. It is not a religious issue. It is not an attack on the institution of marriage. It is a civil rights issue. All Americans should be afforded the same rights and dignity. As a gay male I would like to have the same rights as heterosexual couples. Several other states already have civil unions. Hawaii should follow this lead. This isn't an issue that should be voted upon by the masses. If the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's was voted upon by the people African - Americans would still be sitting on the back of the bus in the Southern US. This is an issue that elected officials must take up and protect the rights of the minority.

Hawaii is the "ALOHA STATE". We pride our self on our diverse population. Let's tell the the rest of the nation and the world that "ALL" people are respected and protected in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and again I ask you to support SB 232. All I am asking for as a citizen of this State is EQUALITY!

Joseph A. Savino
PO Box 390
Kaunakani, Kauai 96747

From: Gabriel Tiogangco [gabetio@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:31 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony In Support of SB232
Attachments: Testimony For SB232 2010.doc

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit the attach letter to the committee in support of SB232.

Mahalo,
Gabriel Tiogangco
294 Akiohala Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

“In Support Of SB232”

My name is Gabriel Tiogangco and I live on Oahu. I am in support of SB232. I would to thank this committee for giving me this opportunity to speak. My partner Jeff Fox and I have been together for 17 years. We have four children that we’ve adopted. We own our home, work in the community and pay taxes.

By denying us the freedom to marry punishes us by depriving us of critical tangible as well as intangible protections and responsibilities in virtually every area of life from raising our children, building a life together, caring for one another, to retirement, death, and inheritance. Bottom line is that everything we’ve worked so hard for could be at risk.

Gay marriages will not change any part of our society except to give us equal rights and dignity that we’ve been denied.

Homosexual relationships, like heterosexual relationships, may be loving and committed or promiscuous and exploitive. I believe that God intends the gift of sexuality to be shared responsibly and lovingly by both homosexuals and heterosexuals. Sexuality is intended for more than procreation. I believe that the gift of sexuality is a source of personal fulfillment and enrichment as well as a means of strengthening the bond between loving couples- whether homosexual or heterosexual.

It is time that our gay brothers and sisters come out and lives our lives in spite of the bigotry and hate that persists.

My family and I want to be valued. We like to live our lives openly, honestly, and publicly. We don’t deserve being treated like second class citizens. We deserve to be accepted by society where we don’t have to live a lie and in fear of harassment, ridicule, shame and prejudice in this land of “Aloha” we call Hawaii.

In closing, Romans 14:13 Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let your good be spoken as evil. 17 For the Kingdom of God is not food or drink but righteous and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval.

Thank you for your time and yes, I am in support of SB232.

Gabriel Tiogangco
294 Akiohala Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
gabetio@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:57 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: elwegner1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: TEST.SB232.Civil.Unions.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eldon L. Wegner
Organization: Individual
Address: 2333 Kapiolani Blvd #2413 Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808-946-9984
E-mail: elwegner1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

TO : Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,

SUBJECT: SB 232, HD1 Relating to Civil Unions

HEARING: 9 am Tuesday February 24, 2009
Auditorium, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Extends the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union

POSITION: I strongly support SB 232 which would extend equality of treatment to partners in a civil union.

RATIONALE:

More than a decade ago, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that equal benefits should be offered to same-sex relationships based on constitutional principles of gender equity and equal protection. This bill would finally extend those rights. It is only fair.

Much could be said about how supporting strong family bonds among people who love one another serves to benefit the general community by providing stability in people's lives and promoting healthy life patterns.

We live in a civil society where no one's religious views should be imposed on others. If individuals have personal beliefs forbidding such relationships, they are free not to enter into same-sex unions, but they have no right to impose their personal beliefs on others. Furthermore, this law concerns civil unions and would not force their church to offer holy union ceremonies.

I am the past Moderator (2006-2007) of Church of the Crossroads. We are an Open and Affirming Church in the United Church of Christ and understand our Christian faith to be inclusive of all persons who follow in the path of Jesus, who extended the love of God to all persons regardless of how marginalized they were by the mainstream culture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:02 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: lilinoe57@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cheryl Wan
Organization: Individual
Address: 1620 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 510 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8082202670
E-mail: lilinoe57@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

HI, i am opposing the SB232, in the Bible it says that man shall not lay with man and woman shall not lay with woman, God made Woman from the mans rib. In the Holy word it is written that marriage shall be between a man & a woman, it is defined in the Bible. So to all our legislators please do not pass the bill, this will bring more problems to our world and this is not what Our Lord and Savior would like. By saying that it ok for same sex marriage the Lord will surly punish the ones who push for this life style.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:02 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mgsmart@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Oppose SB232 submit.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mary Smart
Organization: Individual
Address: 94-210 Kakaili Pl Mililani, HI
Phone: 627-1220
E-mail: mgsmart@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Attention: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 AM

Conference Room 016

Subject: **OPPOSE SB232.**

Submitted by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

1. I OPPOSE this bill and request you stop this bill in Committee.
2. This Bill is unnecessary, unwanted, and adds an administrative burden to government for no benefit to the individuals who will participate or for society.
 - a. There is no need for Civil Union. What deficiency is being met by this bill? All configurations of relationships are accommodated in either marriage or reciprocal beneficiary statutes.
 - b. There is equal access to marriage. A new category of relationship that “mirrors” marriage is unwarranted.
 - c. There is no discrimination in marriage or reciprocal beneficiary laws. Each individual is treated exactly the same.
 - d. Since there is precedence from Connecticut courts, whether the legislature “intends” to or not, the end result will likely change marriage in the State.
 - e. This Bill violates the intent of the 1998 amendment to the Hawaii Constitution that was the “will of the people” to restrict marriage (and all its rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of spouses) to relationships of one man and one woman.
 - f. Paragraph -1 Definitions regarding Agent refers to the marriage statute 572-5 requiring an initial screening for “loathsome disease.” Same-sex relationships have a higher incidence of disease. Even in committed same-sex relationships, it is common for an individual to have on average 7 other sex partners per year. Studies have shown that same-sex partners in a committed relationship are more likely to participate in risky sexual practices. Government should discourage unhealthy acts.
 - g. Same-sex relationships result in more assault and domestic violence than heterosexual relationships. Any act that negatively impacts the

public safety of its citizens should be discouraged, not sanctioned by the state.

- h. Paragraph -3 is discriminatory. There is no reason to create a new category of rights, benefits, responsibilities, etc for one subset of couples eligible for reciprocal beneficiary status.
- i. The only purpose of this bill is to establish marriage for same-sex couples by another name. This bill will weaken marriage by opening civil unions to heterosexual couples.
 - i. Other states (Louisiana, Arkansas, and Arizona) are strengthening marriage by instituting “Covenant Marriages” Civil unions weaken marriage, the foundation of civil society.
 - ii. Where civil unions are implemented, marriage is negatively impacted by declining marriage rates. More people co-habitate instead of committing to a stable, faithful, life-long, monogamous relationship. Civil unions and same sex marriage are neither good for children nor society.
 - iii. When stable marriages decrease, there is increased crime, poverty, disease, suicide, and other social ills. This bill will increase the strain on our social services resources.
- j. As a “Civil Union” there is no need for paragraph -4 Solemnization. Delete paragraph -4. There should be no mention and no requirement for anyone to participate or officiate at any civil administrative function.
- k. Replace paragraph -4 with protection for all individual, businesses, organizations who have moral objections to recognizing immoral behaviors as the norm. It is discriminatory against a large segment of society to implement a law that is morally reprehensible. Add: “No business, individual, or organization will be required to recognize, acknowledge, endorse, condone or support civil unions on the grounds of their moral objection.”

3. When I was first approached over twenty years ago about my opinion of same-sex marriage, I was like many people and didn't understand the ramifications and the harm that results. After 20 years of research and study, I understand that civil unions are harmful to participants and society.

4. OPPOSE SB232 or make changes that will not conflict with the intention of the 1998 Constitutional amendment that reserves the institution of marriage (not just the word marriage) to a union of one man and one woman.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:02 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: rkushins@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB232 Testimony.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Kushins
Organization: Individual
Address: 3371 Kaha Drive Kihei, HI
Phone: 808-344-3808
E-mail: rkushins@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Rebecca Kushins
3371 Keha Drive, Kihei, HI 96753
808-344-3808
rkushins@hawaii.edu

RE: SB232, January 25, 2011 10am

To the members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am a 28 year old Maui resident, currently studying for my master's degree in social work through the University of Hawaii. Both personally and professionally, the passage of civil unions for Hawaii's citizens is important to me.

Personally, I do not want to live in a state in which I am not given equal rights to be recognized legally as united with my partner. I am committed to receiving my graduate education and serving my neighbor island community, but I cannot remain a resident in a place where I am discriminated against on the basis of whom I love. Hawaii needs more well-educated residents, not fewer. I do not want to be another statistic to add to the list of Hawaii's "brain drain" to the mainland. However, I cannot promise to stay if I am not shown the respect I deserve.

Professionally, I cannot ignore that the worth and dignity of all of Hawaii's citizens is at stake when some of her citizens are not granted equality under the law. The joint values of American democratic equality and Hawaiian aloha spirit stand to be bolstered by the passage of civil unions in our state. Please do not ignore this important bill, with its vast implications for the wellbeing of our entire community.

Thank you very much for joining me in supporting equality for all of Hawaii's citizens.

Rebecca Kushins

From: Kent Hirata [khirata2@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:04 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support for SB232 (civil unions)

For:

Public hearing on SB232 (civil unions)
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a. m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2425

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a senior citizen who has been observing the struggle to establish civil unions in Hawaii and the organized effort to keep civil unions from ever becoming a reality here.

After studying the arguments for and against civil unions, I have decided to support SB232 for the following reasons:

- (1) The passage and signing of SB232 would legislatively correct a long-standing injustice that should not have arisen and should not be allowed to continue, because it conflicts with the equal-protection provisions of the state and federal constitutions. This would be preferable to intervention by the courts.
- (2) Simple considerations of fairness more than justify legislative efforts to provide equal benefits and equal protection, not only to gays and lesbians, but also to their children.
- (3) Two UH-Manoa researchers 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 nearly \$7 million annually to the state's economy. This suggests that civil unions could enhance Hawaii's appeal as a tourist destination. It already competes with other states and other cities for a share of tourist dollars.
- (4) In enacting civil unions, Hawaii would not be engaging in an unprecedented social and legal experiment. Several other states, and even several other foreign countries, have already enacted civil unions and even same-sex marriages.
- (5) Same-sex **marriages** have been legal in Massachusetts since 2004. That state has suffered none of the catastrophic consequences that opponents of same-sex marriages, let alone of civil unions, fearfully predicted. There is no reason to think that Hawaii would suffer catastrophic consequences if **civil unions** were enacted.

(6) The argument that enactment of civil unions would be inevitably followed by court-ordered legalization of same-sex marriages has been refuted by retired Associate Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Steven Levinson, who wrote the majority opinion in *Baehr v. Miike*. He pointed out that under current Hawaii law, the courts cannot usurp the Legislature's constitutionally established authority to decide whether same-sex marriages shall be allowed or disallowed.

(7) 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."

(8) 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. Amending that law to provide truly equal benefits and truly equal protection would essentially transform it into SB232, to which opponents of civil unions strongly object. On the other hand, an amended reciprocal-beneficiaries law which is an improvement over the existing law but which does not provide truly equal benefits and truly equal protection would still perpetuate **unequal** benefits and **unequal** protection, so it could not and would not accomplish what SB232 could accomplish.

(9) The religious community is divided on the subject of civil unions. People of faith who express opposition to civil unions do not speak for **all** people of faith.

(10) Unexamined tradition is an insufficient basis for perpetuating injustice. As Jay Sakashita, assistant professor of religion at Leeward Community College, stated in his May 22, 2010 commentary in the Honolulu Advertiser, "Traditions are meant to provide continuity, not constraint. They should . . . not be invoked to mask 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."

(11) 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, and they do not provide **all** of the rights, benefits and privileges that are available **only** to participants in marriages.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Kent Hirata
1666-A Lusitana Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Hawaii Family Forum [info@hawaiifamilyforum.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:07 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: 'Allen'
Subject: Testimony for JDL Hearing: January 25, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.
Attachments: SB232_110125_JDL.pdf

Please find attached testimony from:

Allen Cardines, Jr.
Executive Director
Hawaii Family Forum
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224
Phone: (808) 221-4022

Direct email: allen@hawaiifamilyforum.org

Bill & Title: SB 232 – Relating to Civil Unions
Committee Hearing: Senate JDL
Date: January 25, 2011
Time: 10:00
Room #: 016



Email to: JDCTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: January 25, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room # 016

DATE: January 24, 2011

TO: **Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

RE: **STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions**

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am Allen Cardines, representing the Hawaii Family Forum. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations. We strongly oppose this bill that would establish civil unions in Hawaii.

Civil unions are a desperate and dishonest attempt to force same-sex “marriage” on Hawaii.

As we’ve seen in California, not even constitutional amendments protecting marriage are safe from activist courts. The people of Hawaii and the majority of our elected officials still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman. If this isn’t about undermining and redefining marriage, why would the language of the marriage law be used to create civil unions? In the states which have adopted civil union laws, activist have always found them insufficient; only the redefinition of marriage would be suffice.

Every time a civil union bill has been imposed on a state, demands for same-sex “marriage” have followed. The activists lobbying for civil unions really want same-sex “marriage” in Hawaii. We know it, they know it, and the people of Hawaii have a right to know it. Same-sex “marriage” activists can’t convince the people to redefine marriage, so they are pursuing strategies like this. You can’t talk about civil unions without talking about same-sex marriage because there really isn’t any difference. The goal is the same. See the next two pages where we have identified and chronologically detailed this fact.

The people of Hawaii deserve an honest debate.

SB 232 is nearly identical to bills passed in California and Connecticut. Those led to courts ultimately imposing same-sex “marriage” on those states. Are we supposed to believe they don’t want to force same-sex marriage on Hawaii?

Marriage does not have to be redefined to care for unmarried people. Hawaii’s reciprocal beneficiary agreements provide for all kinds of domestic situations in which care is made available to tow people regardless of sexual relationship.

Marriage is recognized by government for a reason. Governments have recognized marriage for one reason: the procreative potential of the sexual relationship in marriage. Married mothers and fathers provide a great service to the community and the state – the next generation of responsible citizens and taxpayers.

6301 Pali Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224 • Ph: 808-203-6704 • Fax: 808-261-7022
E-mail: allen@hawaiifamilyforum.org | Website: www.hawaiifamilyforum.org |



CIVIL UNIONS PROGRESSION TO SAME-SEX “MARRIAGE”

Civil Unions in Vermont (2000):

- Under an order from the state Supreme Court, the Vermont Senate gave **final approval to a bill to create civil unions** in Vermont on 2000-APR-19. The House voted on APR-25 to accept the Senate version. The **governor signed the bill into law** on APR-26. (1)
- Same-sex couples, composed of gays, lesbians and/or bisexuals, were able to obtain their civil union certificates starting on 2000-JUL-01. (2)
- In April 2009, the Vermont legislature **passes a statute allowing same-sex marriage**. **Governor Douglas vetoed the bill, but the veto is overridden by the legislature**. **Vermont is the first state in which legislature, not the courts, authorized same-sex marriage**. (3)

Observation: Within nine years, Civil Unions in Vermont were replaced by same-sex marriage. The state court mandated that the legislature move to treat same-sex couples the same as married couples, and in 2000 it was the first state to adopt civil unions. Activist pushed until marriage was redefined in state law in 2009.

Civil Unions in Connecticut (2005):

- On April 20, 2005 Connecticut legislature passes first **same sex civil union bill** in the nation not driven by a court decision. (4)
- On October 1, 2010, The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that a ban against same-sex marriage was in violation of the equal protection clause in the state constitution. **Connecticut became the second state to allow same-sex marriage**. (5)

Observation: within five years, Civil Unions in Connecticut were replaced by same-sex marriage.

Domestic Partnerships to Civil Unions in New Jersey (2004):

- In 2004, New Jersey Attorney General warns Asbury city officials that they face prosecution on misdemeanor charges of issuing invalid marriage licenses and marrying people without licenses. (6)
- On October 25, 2006, the Supreme Court of New Jersey gave New Jersey lawmakers 180 days to rewrite the state's marriage laws, either including same-sex couples or creating a new system of civil unions for them. (7)
- On December 14, 2006 the **Legislature passed a bill establishing civil unions in New Jersey**, which was signed into law by Governor Jon Corzine on December 21, 2006. (8)
- In January 2010, the **New Jersey Senate defeated a bill that would allow same-sex marriage**. (9)
- In August 2010, the New Jersey Supreme Court refuses to hear a challenge to New Jersey's statute authorizing civil unions between same-sex couples. (10)

Observation: within two years, Domestic Partnerships in New Jersey were replaced by Civil Unions; then activist of Civil Unions tried passing a bill for same-sex marriage.

Civil Unions in New Hampshire (2008):

In May of 2007, New Hampshire legislature approves a measure establishing civil unions. Governor Lynch signs the bill, which is effective January 1, 2008. (11)

The law was replaced by the same-sex marriage law on January 1, 2010. (12)

Observation: within two years, Civil Unions in New Hampshire were replaced by same-sex marriage.

Same-Sex Marriage in California

- On March 14, 2005 California Superior Court judge rules ban on same sex marriage is unconstitutional, writing "the state's protracted denial of equal protection cannot be justified simply because such constitutional violation has become traditional." (13)
- September 2005 **California legislature becomes first legislative body in US to pass a bill legalizing same-sex marriage without a court order.** Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoes the legislation. (14)
- May 2008 The California Supreme Court rules that banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. (15)
- November 2008 **California voters** pass Proposition 8, which amends the California state constitution to **define marriage between one man and one woman.** The vote is challenged in court, on the grounds that it was an illegal constitutional revision. Oral arguments will be heard in the state Supreme Court on March 5, 2009. (16)
- August 2010 A federal district court judge in California ruled that the Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriages violated the equal protection provisions of the U.S. Constitution. The decision has been appealed and enforcement (allowing same-sex marriages to be performed) has been delayed until the appeal can be heard by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. An expedited hearing will be held in December, and the decision is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. (17)

(1) http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_mar8.htm

(2) http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_mar8.htm

(3) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(4) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(5) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(6) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(7) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(8) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(9) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(10) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(11) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(12) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(13) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(14) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(15) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(16) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

(17) <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabId=4243>

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Re: In support of SB232

Dear Members of this committee,

Thank you for your consideration and time. My name is Pamela Lucas, and this is my testimony in support of SB232 as related to Civil unions.

Born and raised in these islands, I have lived openly as a gay women along with my partner of 33 years. The first of those 33 years began as students in middle school. Although our Christian values opposed our relationship, our "hearts" did our bidding for us. We fell in love as people do and because of it we were ridiculed and harassed by our peers and teachers. For 33 years we have struggled with acceptance, identity, respect and dignity not only from our peers but also from our families, our communities and society as a whole. It isn't a lifestyle or a life that anyone would want to choose for themselves unless they welcomed a life of struggle, ridicule, pain and unfairness. To support SB232 will not only solidify the issue of civil union marriages, but for me personally will openly say; "I'm a human being too and your words and your statements hurt, but I'll be okay, cause I have a place in the eyes of the law", and that I have the right to be happy with whom I have chosen to spend my life with and all that I accomplish in my lifetime will be hers too. And that I have the right to the freedoms as you do. No more, and no less. This is what it would mean to me. More than most. More than most can imagine. More than I can hope for in my lifetime is to live without fear of oppression or retribution. And that when my life ends, I don't have to worry that my assets will be divided amongst my kin that disapproves of my life choices and not my life-partner with whom a life I've built.

I don't want to seek to get married in a church or institution that does not honor my views and values as a free thinking Christian. All that I'm simply asking for is equality for myself and my life-partner to be acknowledged and afforded the same rights and equal protections under the laws of legal marriages in the State of Hawaii. by supporting SB232. Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Lucas
1185 Olomea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

From: Lynnehi@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:16 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB232, testimony, hearing January 25, 10 am

My name is Lynne Matusow and I support Senate Bill 232, being heard on January 25 at 10 am. I support equal rights for all. I do not believe certain classes of citizen should be treated differently. We are all human--black, white, Asian, Pacific Islanders, Europeans, etc., Jews, Christians, Buddhists, etc. We come from the same stock.

I was very disappointed that former Governor Lingle vetoed HB 444 last year. The time to act is now. We have waited too long.

I am heterosexual, but I count many gay, lesbian, and transgendered persons as my friends. I can't justify that they don't have equal rights.

Aloha,

lynne matusow
60 n. beretania, #1804
honolulu, hi 96817
808 531-4260

From: Ben Robinson [metroben@me.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:16 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 232

Hello!

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 232, providing equality for all families.

Ben Robinson, Honolulu
metroben@me.com
(808) 265-2657

From: Andrade, Eva [eandrade@rcchawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:15 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hearing: January 25, 2011 | Senate JDL @ 10:00 a.m. in room 016
Attachments: SB232_110125_JDL.pdf

Please find enclosed testimony for:

Walter Yoshimitsu
Executive Director
Hawaii Catholic Conference
6301 Pali Highway | Kaneohe, HI 96744 | Phone: (808) 203-6735 | Email: hcc@rcchawaii.org

HEARING INFORMATION:

Committee: Senate JDL
Date: January 25, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Room: 016



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email to: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on January 25, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m. room #016

DATE: January 24, 2011

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: **STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS**

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 200,000 Catholics in Hawaii. We strongly oppose this bill that would establish civil unions in Hawaii. We oppose this bill for several reasons:

Marriage does not have to be redefined to care for unmarried people. We have been on the record for several years saying that fixing reciprocal beneficiaries is better for Hawaii than establishing civil unions because it does NOT discriminate based on sexual orientation. ANYONE who cannot legally marry in Hawaii is entitled to these benefits. Hawaii's reciprocal beneficiary agreements provide for all kinds of domestic situations in which care is made available to people regardless of sexual relationship.

Marriage between one man and one woman is recognized and endorsed by the government for a reason. Governments have recognized marriage for one reason: the procreative potential of the sexual relationship in marriage. Married mothers and fathers provide a great service to the community and the state – the next generation of responsible citizens and taxpayers.

Civil unions for same-sex couples is just a stepping stone toward redefining marriage. In the states which have adopted civil union laws, activist have always found them insufficient; only the redefinition of marriage would be suffice. The activists lobbying for civil unions really want same-sex "marriage" in Hawaii. Same-sex "marriage" supporters can't convince the people to redefine marriage, so they are pursuing strategies like this. You can't talk about civil unions without talking about same-sex marriage because there really isn't any difference. The goal is the same. SB 232 is nearly identical to bills passed in California and Connecticut. Those led to courts ultimately imposing same-sex "marriage" on those states. Are we supposed to believe they don't want to force same-sex marriage on Hawaii?

Civil unions are a desperate and dishonest attempt to force same-sex "marriage" on Hawaii. As we've seen in California, not even constitutional amendments protecting marriage are safe from activist courts. The people of Hawaii and the majority of our elected officials still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: John Remis [johnremis@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 9:53 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: john remis
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Thank you for taking a stand and being your own rulers. We are only free if we maintain independent sovereignty.

Masterofthejungle.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janice Pechauer [pechauer@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Senate Bill 232 Testimony
Attachments: CivilUnionTesimony1:11.doc

Attached is my testimony for the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting scheduled for January 25, 2011 at 10 AM.

Mahalo,

Janice Pechauer

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SB 232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS
10 AM - TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011

TESTIMONY BY JANICE PECHAUER
Past President, Save Traditional Marriage '98

My name is Janice Pechauer, Past President of Save Traditional Marriage '98, the coalition formed to pass the Constitutional Amendment preserving traditional marriage.

SB 232 – Relating to Civil Unions subverts the will of Hawaii’s citizens. After many years of Legislative wrangling and judicial intrusion, the Legislature finally allowed the people to decide the issue of homosexual “marriage.” The wording of the 1998 Constitutional Amendment ballot measure was convoluted and purposely designed to confuse, but Hawaii’s citizens were not deceived.

Winning by a margin of 70%, including a majority vote in every House District and Precinct, they voted overwhelmingly for marriage between one man and one woman. As a trade off, Legislators passed a reciprocal beneficiary law.

Now, apparently, many in the Legislature do not consider those actions final and believe the 30% minority view should prevail. For the sixth time we have another Legislative effort to allow homosexuals to marry through a sleight of hand “civil union” designation. Passage of SB 232 would eliminate any legal distinction between homosexual civil union marriages and traditional marriage. Except for the marriage license, a civil union would be treated in the same way as a traditional marriage, as the description of SB 232 states that it “Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union”

Civil union supporters have admitted their next goal is to exert pressure to legalize same-sex marriage. Last year HB 878 confirmed that intent, as it would have redefined marriage in State documents from a relationship between a man and a woman to a relationship between *two people*.

Some Legislators stated that Hawaii’s people have changed their minds. However, there is no corroborating evidence to substantiate that claim. The few churches, labor leaders, and community groups, such as the league of Women Voters, who testified before the Legislative Committees last year were the same ones who supported homosexual “marriage” in '98.

When I lead the grassroots effort to preserve traditional marriage I spoke before forty-two different groups, and a common concern was a fear of homosexual sex being taught in schools. This fear is not unfounded, considering what was happening in our schools then and what has transpired in several states since then.

PAGE TWO: JANICE PECHAUER TESTIMONY

For example, then I was told that an Ewa high school sex education teacher told students that they needed to try both lifestyles before deciding what they were. At McKinley H.S. homosexuals were invited to speak to students in sex education classes, and in some private preschools, the books "Heather has Two Mommies" and "Daddy's Wedding" were in the classrooms - much to the shock of parents.

Indoctrinating students exists across the country. On March 25, 2000 the Massachusetts Department of Education sponsored a workshop for high school students. A description of it can be found at <http://www.massnews.com/maygsa.htm>. Please be advised that the contents are extremely graphic.

The statewide conference, called "Teach-Out," was sponsored the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Homosexual activists from across the country were also there. One of their goals was to expand homosexual teaching into the lower grades. Parents who allowed their children to attend believed they would learn about AIDS. Instead, teenagers and children as young as 12, were taught how to perform homosexual sex.

More recently a federal judge in Massachusetts, where homosexual "marriages" were judicially imposed upon its citizens, ruled that homosexual issues must be taught and parents have no opt out options.

If you pass SB 232 parents in Hawaii should be even more concerned and ever more vigilant with what their children will be taught in school, as the pressure is already there to teach homosexual sex to children. Is this really the environment you want for your children and grandchildren?

The people of Hawaii strongly expressed their views that marriage is an institution to be protected. Creating counterfeit parallels to marriage, such as civil unions, diminishes the institution of marriage. The right of the people to govern themselves must be honored. Please vote no on SB 232. Mahalo.

From: carlos leon [mailto:leon@change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:36 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

carlos leon
Aurora, IL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



DONALD R. BOTSAI

January 24, 2011

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing in favor of Senate Bill 232. This is an important bill for the recognition of relationships between couples of the same gender. A year ago our State Legislature spent much time in soul-searching and deliberation, with a clear majority coming to the conclusion that a similar bill should be passed. Courageously they voted accordingly in spite of it's being an election year, and in the face of vociferous opposition from some segments of the population.

Our former Governor, stating that one person should not make such an important decision, did exactly that. She contravened the will of the legislature when she, as an individual, negated months of deliberation and study by a well informed body by vetoing the bill.

The concept of minority rights is deeply embedded in the foundation of our laws and our psyche. This is especially evident in Hawaii 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. Jim Crow laws were eventually overturned in state after state. The 2008 election of our President, a person of mixed ancestry, proves how unjust the older laws were.

The people of Hawaii have always known that Ohana comes in many guises. We understand that diversity and acceptance creates strength. It is time to recognize and honor our long history of embracing a spectrum of human relationships. It is a part of our culture.

Time and again history has shown that the well being of a community comes from inclusion, not discrimination. Senate Bill 232 deserves to be passed this year.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Botsai

Registered Voter

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Bill 232
Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00am
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

****Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 232****

January 24, 2011

I am writing to publicly voice my support for Civil Unions and urge the Senate's Judiciary and Labor Committee to do the same by passing SB232.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dana L. Abdinoor
902 Prospect Street
Honolulu, Hawaii
96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:51 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mattrifkin28@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Rifkin
Organization: Individual
Address: Keaau, HI
Phone: 917-378-9123
E-mail: mattrifkin28@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Every person, regardless of gender or sexual orientation deserves the right to marry, or have a civil union with their partner. Although a church may choose not marry two people of the same sex because of the religious views of that organization. The government should not make the same restriction, it is not appropriate.

There should be civil unions.

From: Paul Kraselsky [gipk@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:51 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Union Support of SB232

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you Our own experiences as a couple. This March my Partner and I celebrate 18 years together in a Loving relationship, committed to one another. Like any relationship we worked hard to make our relationship work, at the same time not hiding the fact that we were a Gay couple. My first hurdle was during the time that My Partner's Father became seriously ill and my Mother-in-law Shirley, couldn't take care of him ,so I stepped up to the task of bringing Him to our home in Connecticut and caring for him. My Partner's job required him to travel the World Monday to Friday and many week ends. Because I worked out of our home I could do this with some paid help. I ran into one brick wall after another because "I wasn't FAMILY."

We had to hire an Attorney and have a " Series of Legal Documents" drawn up in order to properly care for Him, his wife and even then I continued to be treated as an outsider, and Non-family. However, because of the care we provided, and the Loving Family environment we were able to maintain, my father-in-law lived two good years before he pass away.

One year Later I received a call from my Mother-in-law's sister, telling me that Shirley was not well. After driving two hours to New York to Shirley's home I saw she need Medical help. Armed with the Legal documents I was able to get Shirley the Medical help she needed, but not without still some hassles along the way. She could have Died had I not acted as I did.

Several years later, we bought a condo for Shirley in Connecticut less than 5 minutes from the house. Connecticut had just Passed "A Civil Union Act", During the process of selecting the Interior Finishes(I am a Licensed Interior in Connecticut) with Shirley , again more questions as to who was I and what authority or family relationship did I have in the matter. However after making the real-estate Condo representative aware of my "Civil Union License" with my Partner(Spouse) and validation from Shirley along the way, we muddle through that purchase and relocation.

One year later Shirley fell and broke her hip. We were there in 5 minutes, and were able to get her immediate care, the system was working, People aware of a Gay Couples ability to care for our aging parents, with the "Law on our side," validating us as a couple equal to Married couples, with the same rights, "Civil Rights". Because of this Bill we will be allowed to care and raise our family

as other Americans,here in Hawaii. We are guaranteed by the "Bill of Rights , and 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution these rights and hope that with more States taking the higher ground, like

Hawaii, that one day soon it will be the "Law of the Land".

Now that we have our home here on Kauai, we hope that we can once again enjoy the same Civil Rights we fought so long for and be a responsible member of this community without fear of the same experiences we had on the mainland.

Aloha,

Thank You,
Paul Kraselsky
3011 Pua Akala Pl
Koloa, Hi.96756

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Rachel Orange and I strongly support SB 232 relating to civil unions.

Granting civil unions, with all the current benefits of marriage, to same-sex couples is simply the right thing to do. This is a basic civil rights issue and the time is long overdue for Hawai'i to offer equal rights to all of its citizens.

My husband and I have always supported civil unions as way to offer same-sex couple the benefits of marriage that I can enjoy. After attending hearings on this topic over the last several years and listening to testimony of others, it became clear to me that legal acknowledgment of a union is just as important for when that union may end. Same-sex couples and their children deserve the right to the support of the legal system when seeking child support or equitable division of property.

Our society has long recognized the special unions between two individuals that are bound by love. Let's finally acknowledge that that recognition should be allowed to same-sex couples as it has always been for opposite sex-couples.

Please vote in favor of SB 232. It is simply the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel S. Orange
2457 Lamaku PI
Honolulu, HI 96816
rachel@pd-hawaii.com
265-1334

Jan. 24, 2011

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Peter Ehrhorn

254 Kaha St.

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Re: SB 232

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. Takes effect 1/1/2012.

Dear Senator Hee and fellow committee members,

Please be advised that I support this bill. Hawaii has spent way too much time on gay Unions. While I am favor of homosexual marriage, this bill appears to be acceptable to the gay community so I therefore support it.

In 1992, the supreme court of the state of Hawaii ruled that the state must show a compelling interest to keep gays from marrying. Up until this time I had no opinion on gays one way or the other. While I knew a few gay people, I never had any conversations with them on anything so personal. After this ruling and the terrible law that was passed prohibiting freedom to marry, I started to get closer to gays. As a result of this contact, I believe government should have to show a compelling state interest to prohibit gay marriage or civil unions. Majority opinion is no excuse to discriminate against a percentage of the population.

Let me remind you that at various times throughout our history, majority rule has supported various Anti-American concepts. My daughter for example would not have been allowed to marry her part Asian boyfriend in many parts of the country not that long ago. Today she is able to. A change for the better don't you think? During WWII, Japanese were locked away in concentration camps just for having an ancestry of being Japanese. They were still loyal American citizens and to be denied their freedom was just wrong. Yet the majority supported such moves. The majority have at times supported slavery, the Vietnam war, and today the Iraq war. Today this majority does not exist. The same is happening with gay unions. At one time the vast majority thought of gays as some sex crazed people who could not control their sex drive. Needless to say, this is just a wrong caricature and has no resemblance to reality. Gays are little different from heterosexuals where as in both groups you will have relatively few people who act inappropriately but the vast majority act appropriately. Today the majority is changing its opinion of gays and no longer think of them as perverts. Each time this is voted on, the vote gets closer to favoring gays. I think the younger generation considers this a stupid issue and will definitely allow gay marriage or unions at some point in the future. Might as well start allowing for it now.

Finally for all the talk coming from the supposedly Christian community, not only did they not win many elections this last year but in addition Jesus never said anything about homosexuality one way or the other so it could not have been important to him. Makes me feel that people who oppose this are not real Christians.

ATT00001 (3).txt

Gay unions by the way would encourage gays to act responsibly. This should be encouraged, not fought.

Again I urge you to favorably consider this bill with any adjustments the gay community may want to make.

Best Regards,

Peter Ehrhorn

254 Kaha St.

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:36 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: ayoshihara@ckdbw.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: adrienne yoshihara
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ayoshihara@ckdbw.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:
I support the civil unions bill.

Via E-mail: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 232

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in strong support of S.B. 232, Relating to Civil Unions. Although I believe the Legislature should allow same-sex couples the right to marry, I believe that S.B. 232 is a significant step in the right direction. This is clear and simple: it's about equal rights for all of Hawaii's people. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Gluck
Honolulu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:44 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mariko.rockett@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony for SB232.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Camille Mariko Rockett
Organization: Individual
Address: 95-644 Hamumu St H 101 Mililani, HI 96789
Phone: 808-778-6587
E-mail: mariko.rockett@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Testimony for SB 232

Camille Mariko Rockett, MSW

Before the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Monday, January 24, 2011

I am writing to SUPPORT the passage of SB 232. I am a Maui-born resident, a mother, and a believer in God. I believe EVERY family in Hawaii should be afforded equal rights.

I am an unmarried mother. I consider my family, consisting of just my son and me, to be one full of love, health, strong values, and happiness. My family is not considered traditional, but my ability to parent and my worth as a potential marriage partner are rarely questioned.

I have friends and 'ohana that also have non-traditional families. These include same-sex couples, divorcees, and parents that have taken in children that are not biologically theirs. What makes us all true 'ohana is that we are dedicated to loving and caring for the individuals in our family units. We use our limited incomes to provide for our children, we support each other and our communities, and we commit to care for our family members in sickness and in health.

Hawaii's families, diverse as they are, must not be deprived of basic rights that traditionally married partners receive. Marriage is simply a capitalistic ritual at this point in our society's evolution. We must start realizing that marriage is not in danger, married couples have protection; **Hawaii's 'ohana, Hawaii's families, are what we truly must preserve and protect!** Our community is made up of all different kinds of 'ohana- singles, couples, those who have loved and lost, and those who love even when their love is stigmatized. We should be honoring those who choose to LOVE... especially those that love and care for our community's keiki.

*This state must not be swayed by the exclusionary opinions of one group. My Hawaii state government should not be representing one well-financed sect of Evangelical Christians. My government is for the people. **You are supposed to fight for those who are not given a voice, those who don't yet have enough power to make things right.** I speak on behalf of these people. Please hear this voice and pass SB 232.*

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:45 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jordandachamp@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: TESTIMONY SB232.pdf

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
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: 1/24/2011

Comments:

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL SB232- RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, 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 SB232, 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 Senate Committee of JDL

Testimony on SB232

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 SB232 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 SB232 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.

From: Barbara McNamara [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Barbara McNamara
Joppa, MD

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: Dr. Mele Welte [mewelte@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.
Attachments: Support of Civil Unions Bill 232RE; ATT00001..htm

RE: Support for Hawai'i Senate Bill 232 for Civil Unions

For: Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011

Aloha Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to share my testimony with all of you in support of this very important Bill now again before you. I thank you for your work.

My name is Mele Welte, age 70, currently a poet, I also provide a ministerial service "Open Hearts/Open Minds" for the sick and/or dying. I am a retired high school teacher and also corporate executive, as well as having been a Catholic nun..

I am a 25 year resident of our unique and marvelous state of Hawai'i. I have worked hard to always be a citizen activist. I have helped many candidates for public office over the years. I love this state dearly and have been so disappointed that we were not the very first state in our nation to pass a law for civil unions or marriage equality long ago. We should have been the leader for this law, which I know will someday be the law in all 50 states.

The time is long overdue for this land of aloha to pass a law to extend the civil rights to all for equality in legal partnership and the rights and responsibilities of such legal unions.

We must remember that while we declare our nation and state as "One Under God," we are not a nation or state that is dedicated to any religion, therefore to use any religious book and its interpretations by anyone or any group to establish religious criteria for any laws is clearly unconstitutional and even unconscionable. "God" is a term used by many to express a multitude of meanings.

Yes, I speak from the heart, but also from the wisdom I gleaned from my earliest higher education studies. I speak in behave of a compassionate humanism to be expressed by you our representative lawmakers in your duty to all citizens of our great state.

Please give us the equal rights and benefits under the law that Judge Chang declared we are entitled to have. I have been in a 16 year "non-civil union!"

Imua! Stand courageous and just as lawmakers in support of this equal rights bill for civil unions for all of us in our aloha state.

Mahalo for your time. I sincerely hope that it stirs you to vote to pass this bill. Feel free to call me 396-5490 if you would like to speak with me personally.

Sincerely with much aloha,

Dr. Mele Welte, BA Theology/Philosophy/Social Science, Lifetime Teaching Credential, MA Social Foundations of Education, D.R.S. Doctor of Religious & Consciousness Studies

Long time resident of Hawai'i Kai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:57 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: kris@uhpa.org
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB232 - 110125.pdf

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kristeen Hanselman
Organization: University of Hawaii Professional Assembly
Address: 1017 Palm Drive Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-593-2157
E-mail: kris@uhpa.org
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:



Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m.

SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions.

Dear Chairperson Hee and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, we wish to support passage of SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions. It is our belief that this legislation will advance equal rights for all individuals and their families by recognizing civil unions.

UHPA negotiates non-discrimination protections in its contract and actively does its part to ensure our citizens are afforded full access to legal rights and economic benefits. It is time for broader acceptance of equal rights for all. UHPA has supported this proposed legislation for a number of years. It is time to enact this legislation

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristeen Hanselman".

Kristeen Hanselman
Associate Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>

From: Leanne Hachey [Leanne@op-hawaii.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:00 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

First I want to thank both the Senate and House for the work that they did last year in an effort to pass this bill. Your work was appreciated by many and I was very sorry to hear that then Governor Linda Lingle felt it wasn't in her best interest to support. However this is a new year and once again I have hope that this state will provide me with the same rights as those of my heterosexual friends and family members. I have been with my partner for over 10 years in a loving relationship but without the same benefits and protections that are given to every other married couple in the State of Hawaii. What upsets me as much as anything is the fact that I am expected to contribute the same portion of taxes to this state and yet do not get the same benefits or protections. How can that be legal?

I have never wanted to be "married" in the traditional sense of the word but do want a partnership that has the same rights and benefits as other married couples.

Please allow me to contribute my tax dollars to this community knowing that I am afforded the same rights as other citizens of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

With aloha,

Leanne Hachey

45-520 Kuuipo Place #1

Kaneohe Hawaii 96744

Leanne Hachey | Design Director
Contract Furnishers Of Hawaii, Inc.
dba: OFFICE PAVILION | "A Herman Miller Dealer"
1240 Ala Moana Blvd. - Suite 600 | Honolulu, HI. 96814
MAIN: 808 599 2411 | FAX: 808 599 2617

leanne@op-hawaii.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.op-hawaii.com

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Eve Shere [eveshere@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:03 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Senators:

We are writing in strong support of SB232 which gives committed same sex couples the same rights and benefits AND imposes the same obligations and duties as State law confers and imposes on opposite sex married couples.

All citizens must be the beneficiaries of equal treatment under the law. Think of the children as well as all of Hawaii's families who deserve better from our leadership. Civil rights and liberties MUST BE an inalienable right for all citizens. The time has come to stand up to do what is right for all.

Respectfully,

Professor Reginald Worthley and Eve Shere 1288 Ala Moana #8D, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

From: Stacy Salas [scsalas@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:03 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB232

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in favor of SB232
1/24/11

Hello,

My name is Stacy Salas and I support SB232. Currently I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and I'm completely disheartened and quite defeated everyday that I do not have the same rights as others in the state, as a lesbian woman.

I have been with my partner for over six years and we have been faced with instances of outright discrimination all the way to more "subtle" instances of discrimination. I think that it is long overdue that the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual partners have the right to enter into civil unions with each other. One of the ways in which this inequality affects me is financially. Because I cannot marry my partner who is a resident of Hawai'i, I have to pay "out of state" tuition. So, Civil Union rights are invaluable.

Another way that I am affected is through emotional and psychological trauma because not having equal rights carries a pervasive social inequality that manifests itself in many different ways. It's terrible to not be able to be recognized with the person that I love and have been in a faithful relationship for many years as legitimate in the government's eyes and therefore, not worthy of the same rights and

protections as heterosexual couples.

In addition to my story as a 22 year old lesbian Chamorro, I am also concerned for the elder Gay and Lesbian couples that have been waiting longer than I have. They deserve the respect as human beings to be able to have recognition and make decisions that heterosexual partners make everyday (many times without recognizing the privileges that come with these rights). Also, what about future generations that will look at the government's blatant denial of giving gay and lesbian couples equal rights and the discrimination that I've encountered will re-manifest itself with the next generation.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Stacy Salas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: blakeyboy1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Blake Howell
Organization: Individual
Address: 169 Paukaa Drive Hilo
Phone: 8089897070
E-mail: blakeyboy1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

It is so important that equal rights be extended to all families in Hawaii. My partner and I have been together for 15 years and we deserve equal treatment under the law. Please support SB232 and show the world that Hawaii is truly the Aloha State.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:06 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: waiokila10@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB232 KF.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keda Frank
Organization: Individual
Address: 1310 Ala Alii st Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-255-6267
E-mail: waiokila10@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Welina Mai Kakou,

My name is Kedan Frank and I write to you today to show my support of SB232. I also would like to give my warmest mahalo to the committee for their consideration of this bill.

I personally believe that I am an honest and true person that does my best to better myself and my community. I work full time, go to graduate school full time and do volunteer work at different locations throughout O'ahu. As an active member of the community I feel that it is only fair that I be given the same rights as my heterosexual neighbors.

SB232 represents so much in my eyes. As a native Hawaiian I have been taught that my culture accepts me as who I am. To have the same recognition and rights on the States level would be absolutely amazing. I have been in a committed relationship with my boyfriend for six years. Our families, friends, and co-workers know us as loving people that would be willing to do whatever is necessary to help a person in need. That is why I ask you today to take a deep look into your hearts and show us compassion and kindness. We live together, have a car together, plan on one day raising children together and would love to be recognized as one unit together!

I personally hope that you will take into account my testimony and the many others that I am sure you will be receiving. It is 2011 and it is definitely a time for change, a time for progress and a time to show acceptance for all of Hawai'i's people. Mahalo nui loa for your time.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,
Kedan Frank
1310 Ala Ali'i St.
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:09 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: fonga@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB 232_Testimony_Fong.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allison Fong
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: fonga@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Allison Fong and I strongly support SB 232 relating to civil unions.

Granting civil unions for same-sex couples is a basic and necessary right; anything short of this is unjust. This is one of the most important civil rights issues of my generation. I support SB 232 because I believe in equal rights for all of Hawaii's citizens. There is no logical argument to further delay this movement for equality.

Without legal recognition, right, or license, my partner and I will celebrate our partnership and love in a formal ceremony with family and friends in beautiful Hawaii. We had the option to marry in Massachusetts, or Connecticut, or Maine, even Spain, but we chose Hawaii because this is our home. We will not wait for Hawaii to recognize our commitment, but when it does, we will know that Hawaii has recognized us as its ohana.

Without legal acknowledgement and support of partnerships and families, same-sex couples and their families face unwarranted discrimination. I encourage the committee to support SB 232 and bring equality to all of Hawaii's citizens.

Please vote in favor of SB 232.

Sincerely,

Allison A. Fong

From: Karen Kahn [KKahn@PHInational.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:09 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony: SB232, Public Hearing: January 25, 2011, 10 am

Dear Senators:

I am writing in support of SB232, the civil unions bill. 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.

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.

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

Hawai'i State Senate
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Bill number: S.B. 232
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

Aloha Senators,

I support SB 232, Civil Union.

I am a gay person in a very committed long-term relationship with a partner whom I love very much.

Surely you will hear many testimonies in support of this bill on many grounds from human rights to individual suffrages. I will not repeat them.

I will however emphasize that -- as tax-paying good citizens of this great State of ours, we feel cheated that our benefits received in exchanges of our taxes paid are less than another class of citizens of my brothers, sisters, families & neighbors. This is a fundamental issue of fairness.

I respectfully ask for your support of this Bill.

Mahalo for your time,

Ray Chan, MBA
President, Real Estate Investment Group

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Thomas Decloedt and I strongly support SB 232 relating to civil unions. Civil unions for same sex couples are now granted in Canada, Mexico, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany. Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa and an ever growing number of states within the USA. It is not a controversial issue, it is a basic civil right.

Please vote in favor of SB 232. It is simply the right thing for Hawaii to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Decloedt

From: Tim Derflinger [scarface@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:15 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Domestic partnerships

My partner and I were the 25th partnership to be recognized in Santa Barbara, Ca. 15 years ago. We were the first heterosexual couple to sign up for the civil union. It has been wonderful and advantageous in some respects here in Hawaii. Some organizations recognize our union and some do not. All should. Our relationship has been a mutual understanding and we have no marriage license hanging over our heads that would just cause misery if we ever decided to split up, which neither one of us has any desire to do. Marriage is not a forever thing in our society, as proven by divorce rates, and all it does is create hatred and dirty money in the bloodsucking attorneys' pockets.

Tim Derflinger
96738

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

[SB 232](#)
[Testimony](#)
[Status](#)

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.
Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. Takes effect 1/1/2012.

Pending Referral to
JDL

Senator Hee and Committee,
Re: SB 232 Civil Unions
Subject: Testimony opposed to SB 232

24 January 2011

The purpose of SB232 is to “Extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.” SB 232 proposes to correct an alleged injustice by allowing rights to those who don't qualify for traditional marriage. I would like to suggest that the ‘equal rights’ logic as applied to this bill is false and that the argument was hijacked from the classic civil rights movement. Moreover, that you Senators - who are men and women with caring hearts and reasonable minds – have been coldly misled.

As a result of this misapplied logic, most Senators feel that a vocal, persistent class of same-sex partners have been denied their perceived ‘equal rights.’ Further, you believe that this bill will correct this injustice.

Before I do that, I wish to disclose that I'm a Christian who won't be using a faith or a religious argument. Last week, the Senate regrettably quenched religious expression by halting decades of traditional religious invocation to open it's 2011 daily sessions. Sadly, by excluding prayer and God from Hawaii's Senate Chambers, the Senate has drawn a line in the sand to ONLY support reason and logic as the basis upon which to create law. To state this in another way, each vote for HB 232 shall mean that a Senator is convinced of the logic and reason of the Bill without regard to emotion or faith. Hence, my decision to use only logic and reason.

I oppose SB 232 because it is illogical and not reasonable.

First, homosexuals cannot argue that pro-creation (a bulwark of regular marriage) is one of their reasons for civil unions because nature has rendered it impossible. So, reasonably speaking, there is no procreative logic to support the civil unions.

Secondly, there is no tradition of successful civil unions in history. There is no evidence of historical success with same-sex unions. Although it would be dishonest to say it's never been tried, who among you Senators has seen historical or sociological evidence of the successful union of two men or two women. Again reasonably speaking there is no historical logic to support civil unions.

Thirdly, let's go to the core argument of the civil rights, or equal rights claim which supporters allege is the heart of the matter.

What would have to be true to accept the argument that civil unions are an equal rights issue? As an example, let's consider the standard of race, or sex. We can agree that race and sex are the battlefield of civil rights. Ask an African-American who has lived in the sin and pain of racial prejudice. Their innate skin tone is genetic and NOT a choice. And, do you need to ask a woman if her gender is innate and not a choice? Or ask a Japanese-American about racial prejudice in the early history of Oahu? Any of these folks whose civil rights were violated are defined by the innate and unarguable characteristics of their gender or race. They are not preferences, choices, or behaviors.

How are we then to consider the argument of homosexuals in civil unions? Credible science says that same-sex behavior is a choice and change. If it's a choice, it's not genetic? **IF** homosexuality could be genetically proven, then the equal rights argument would be credible, reasonable or logical. However, which one of the Senators has seen and can share credible scientific evidence confirming that homosexuality is innate, genetic, and anything but a preference or choice? Failing the 'equal rights' logical test, any reasonable person would say that a law based on the equal rights argument is WRONG. Again I submit that reasonably speaking, there is no logic or reason to support civil unions.

Vote no.

Respectfully,

KC Putter Meinken
43 Pueohala Place
Kailua, HI 96734

Ph (808) 261 6833

Cell (808 927 4606)

Email : putterm@hawaii.rr.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: creativesites@me.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris A
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu,HI
Phone:
E-mail: creativesites@me.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

i fully support my and my partners right to all benefits our parents had. Please allow me to live with dignity and respect. I am tired of hiding and living my life in the shadows. It's time my community allows me to live and walk among them without fear. I should not have to beg but if I must I shall. I beg of you and plead with you please allow me to live in freedom. Pass SB232. Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: louisn@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Louis Kenui Nartatez
Organization: Pride Alliance
Address: 1801 Keeaumoku St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone: 808 9534746
E-mail: louisn@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

To: Honorable Senator Clayton Hee
Chairman Senate Committee on the Judiciary

RE: SB 232 - In Support of Civil Unions.

Aloha, my name is Kenui, and this is my life partner, Kamamalu. First of all, I like to start by saying a big mahalo for allowing me this opportunity to provide testimony on senate bill SB 232, which allows the same rights to same-sex couples as well as all parties affected by civil unions.

Kamamalu and I have been together exactly for three years and twenty-five days today. We met on January 1st, 2008, and he is truly the man I love and want to share my life with. Kamamalu is truly an angel of God. There was no other in my life that had made a difference as much as this man did. Just as much as everyone else, we have our ups and downs, but we've always seemed to keep on trying to make life better for ourselves. I loved Kamamalu since the first night I met him. I looked right through his character defects, and all his flaws that is not much. At the age of 44 he only has one filling. Can you beat that? He's the perfect man for me. Not only is taller than me, for God's sake finally a guy taller than me. Super intelligent, and hard working. Kamamalu is a man of good character, integrity, and loyal.

Now what's wrong with this picture? Kamamalu is a man, and so am I. However that doesn't keep us from loving each other. If it was all about sex, then why have we even stayed together for over three years? I'm sure if it was all about sex, we could get it from anyone else. Though sex is a bonus!

On the evening of January 8, 2011, Kamamalu was in Pali Momi Medical Center because his pancreas has been flaring up. That weekend was very disturbing for me. I hadn't slept for three days worried if I would lose the greatest man besides Jesus Christ that ever loved me. Surely what would become if I were to lose my Kamamalu?

We always talked about getting married one day, and so, lo and behold. I felt that it was time. I telephoned his mother, Susan in Vista, California and asked her for her blessings to marry her son. His mom is a WONDERFUL woman and accepts the fact that he is gay, AND welcomed me into her home with open arms. I love Susan, so much that I call her mom also.

So, that evening, I went to the hospital got down on my knees and proposed, and then I almost passed out from worry and lack of sleep. Later that night, I received a text from Kamamalu that wrote, "you proposed to me on my deathbed, and I accepted" Well, I'm not going to wait forever for the man to make the first move, besides I'm a man just as well. Once again, I'd like to thank your for your time and for allowing me to provide testimony on SB 232 relating to Civil Unions. Please pass SB 232.

Mahalo,

Louis K. Nartatez "Kenui" Erik Van Slyke "Kamamalu"
Pride Alliance, Program Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:29 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: fenina@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Fenina Buttler
Organization: Individual
Address: 2512 East Manoa Rd. HI
Phone: 808 286 8804
E-mail: fenina@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:
Support of SB232!



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Testifier: Jean Aoki
LWV Legislative Committee

Chair Senator Hee, Vice Chair Senator Shimabukuro,

The League of Women Voters strongly supports SB 232 Relating to Civil Union

While The League of Women of the United States does not have a position on marriage, we do have a position against discrimination. Our position on equality of opportunity encompassing equal rights and equal access to Education, Employment and Housing applies to “all persons, regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.” We acknowledge that in categorizing people, sexual orientation is a valid, recognized category as much as race, gender, religion, and all the others.

LWV Hawaii sees the civil union issue as a civil rights issue,. We also understand the need of every human being for a close intimate relationship with another human being. Our laws should recognize that, and bestow all couples, regardless of their sexual orientation, the same legal benefits and rights.

Last year, both houses passed bill HB 444 which was vetoed by the Governor. We feel that this is the year for such a bill. Equality Hawaii has stated that “Equal rights for same-sex couples and their families is the civil rights issue of this generation.” We fully agree. The same civil rights for everyone should have no opposition. Not in Hawaii

Thank you for hearing SB 232, and we urge you to enact it as law.

From: Jamie Irvine [jiggers28@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:34 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Concerning SB 232 Amended Hearing to be Held on January 25,2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016 at the State Capitol

Aloha Honorary and Distinguished Guests of the proposed amended hearing of SB 232 being held at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 2011, My name is Jamie Irvine and I am writing to you to express my deep concern for the SB 232 in question. As we all here in Hawaii know that this "debate" concerning the Civil Unions bill has been an issue that has caused great division over its citizens. And for good reason. I know that I am not an elequent speaker nor do I have any official political background that would make me an expert on world or state affairs. However, I do know that because I am blessed to be an American citizen and am a resident of this beautiful state of Hawaii, and that because of those who fought for my liberties with their lives, I do have the privilege of sharing my voice. It seems to me that somehow our society has replaced sound moral issues with an arena for the "what's in it for me" and the "personal gain" agenda ideology. We've heard the old cliché that history repeats itself because it hasn't learned from its past mistakes. I'm concerned that if this SB 232 is passed that we will fall into some unforeseen consequences that our state may not be able to withstand. Why is it that we try to masquarade a wrong by glamourizing its truth? For example: an act of adultry has now been replaced with the terms romantic affair or a fling in the night. Yet the reality is that someone has cheated on their spouse. But to cover and rationalize this selfish behavior we call it another name so we don't have to take personal responsibility for our actions. Isn't Shakespeare the one who coined the term, "A rose by any other name is still a rose?" I believe that we too are being duped into buying that this newly named SB 232 Civil Unions Bill, isn't going to be the same as what has been deemed to be as marraige between one man and one woman. You don't have to be a rocket scientist or a politician to see the true face value of this proposed bill. As long as we are human none of us will all agree on what is the right thing to do because in our mind sets, someone wins and someone loses. Most Americans don't think what the Middle Easterners are doing to their women is right and the mistreatment of other certain citizens but that doesn't stop them from how they continue to supress and mistreat them. But they believe what they are doing is the right thing. It isn't always what appears to be right that makes an issue or event right, right? The question isn't whether this is right thing to do concerning the SB 232 but what is the wisest thing to do concerning the SB 232? Our country has slowly faded into a generation that has become dependent on someone's else's resources and sources of information to be our provision and truth. From oil to talk show hosts, from credit cards to 1-800-psyhic phone lines. When will we be able to draw the line and say enough is enough? Marriage between one man and one woman is not out dated or old fashioned. If this were the case so would be eating and taking showers. We don't have he right to re-write how our country came into existence. It was and still is by the grace of God how we came to be and still are. We broke from the tyranny of England and its forced taxes and confined worship. But we are worse off now than ever. We are reaping what we have been sowing for the past several decades because of politcal correctedness and having the fear of governmnet over the reverant fear of God. What happened to us? All of us? We can't expect for God to bless America if we continue on our moral decline, can we? We can't have an eclectic view of religious philisophies because who will get the glory? A house or country divided cannot stand! My point is, please, I implore you to prayerfully take into consideration the whole picture and possible ramifications if you do decide to pass this SB 232. It will change the entire state of true aloha here. Please vote **NO** on SB 232! Not just for the time being but forever. The burden of proof is in our history books. Yet no matter what you may decide, I know the One who holds all our futures in His Hands. I really appreciate you taking the time to read this. May the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus Himself, guide you into all wisdom and truth. May He bless you now and forver more. Sincerely, Jamie Irvine

From: Robin Wurtzel [robinwurtzel@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:34 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 232

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members;

I am writing, as an individual, in strong support of SB232.

This bill represents a substantial step forward to see that lesbian and gay couples are afforded equal treatment under the 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.

It is important for us as a society that all residents be treated equally. Thus, I urge you to vote YES on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,
Robin Wurtzel
2354 Liloa Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Nelson Higa [nelhiga5@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 - Civil Unions

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Support SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

HEARING: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

10:00 A.M

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I have been a Hawaii resident for 53 years, with grandparents who immigrated from Japan & Okinawa to find a better life. They worked hard in the plantation and have experienced discrimination. Their sacrifice was to provide my parents and future generation with the opportunity to have the american dream. We were taught that America was a land of fairness, that every person, irregardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation, would be treated with respect and measured on their work. I have benefited much from their sacrifice, work, tears and values, that I can't stand by and see a group of Americans denied equal rights.

I believe that every American wants to insure that no one is discriminated against or denied opportunities under the law. I believe that a civil unions bill will insure equal rights. I support Senate Bill 232.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nelson Higa
nelhiga5@yahoo.com
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

From: Steve Kruey [steve@jacknsteve.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:18 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: 'Jack Berberich'
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Aloha,

I am writing to ask that you vote in favor of the civil unions bill (SB232) for committed gay and lesbian couples. All residents of Hawaii deserve the same dignity and respect under the law.

As someone who fully supports equal rights for all Hawaii residents, I hope that you will vote in favor of SB232 to ensure that all families have the same critical protections. My partner and I retired and moved to Maui in 2003 and have built our home in Kula. Having Domestic Partner status in California we look forward to being recognized by Hawaii as the committed, loving couple that we are.

With your support for equality for ALL residents of Hawaii, we can make Hawaii an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Mahalo,
Steve Kruey
40 Kapalulu Place
Kula, HI 96790

From: Cindy Tipton [cindyluvsjesus@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:37 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

As a voting citizen, I just wanted to share my heart. I can see why people may think that it is mean to not allow same sex individuals to marry, and that there have been many Christians saying stupid things in an unloving manner. For that, since I am a Christian, I apologize. That is not what being a Christian is about.

If we take a look at history, which is one of the best ways to avoid making the same mistake others have already made, sometimes over and over, we can see that every time a society has embraced homosexuality, it has come to ruin. If you don't believe me, do some homework. And since you cannot hear my tone of voice I want you to know that I am saying that in a nice pleading voice, not antagonistically.

I know that not everyone believes in God, but He is real and He loves EVERYONE, and wants none to perish but all of us to have life and have it abundantly!!! And because He loves us, he also warns us of those things that will eventually harm us. We all live by rules, and if we didn't, this life we live here on earth would be a miserable mess. If we let this minority group dictate to us this need for civil unions, ignoring history and God's loving heart, then where is it going to end? I can only imagine and it makes me shutter.

May wisdom lead you,
Cindy

From: Brenda Vincent [bvincent55@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:33 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony relating to SB 232; Hearing date Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10 AM in Conference Room 016, State Capitol

To all Honorable Senators and Attendees,

I am writing this testimony to urge you to vote AGAINST SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions.

This bill extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in marriages to partners in a civil union. This is just another way of extending marriage to persons of same sex. This is contrary to the beliefs of the majority of Hawaii's citizens. It is contrary to the legal definition of Marriage which is between a man and a woman. It is contrary to my values and beliefs as an American Citizen and a Citizen of the great state of Hawaii.

Please vote AGAINST SB 232

Sincerely,

Brenda A. Vincent
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Lambda Law Student Association [lambdalawhawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Strongly in Support of SB232

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Committee Hearing on SB232, scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00a.m.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

We are the Lambda Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson, and we are strongly in favor of SB232.

We were formed in order to promote equality for those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. It is with great enthusiasm and aloha that we welcome and embrace the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) people of Hawaii. It is in this spirit of community, fairness, and equality that we are reaching out to you today; the state of Hawaii is fortunate to have another chance to pass one of our more basic of rights! For far too long, our country has witnessed discrimination based on gender, race, and sexual orientation amongst other things. Now, Hawaii is at a pivotal point in a new year and a new decade to wipe away inequality.

Civil Unions will grant the basic legal protection that Hawaii's LGBT families need. Many of our families have been together for decades and have minor children together. Unfortunately, Hawaii's current laws do not provide adequate protection for our families and their children. Providing basic legal protection for minor children should not be a controversial matter.

We would like to emphasize that SB232 is a simple matter of basic legal protection and as such we are not addressing a religious issue or a redefinition of "marriage." Again, we support this bill because the only things it will affect are the basic legal rights of Hawaii's LGBT families, including minor children. This vote is not about politics; rather, it is about an issue of fairness for people of the right age and sound mind, who choose to live together, share everything together to be able to have the protection of our government.

We have nothing to fear from love and commitment. As an elected leader, we hope that you will fight for the rights of all the people of whom you serve. We hope SB232 has your support and hope to take a step forward alongside you. We are all in this together.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Ryan Loeffers, President
Kori Weinberger, Vice President

Lambda Law Student Association
University of Hawaii at Manoa
William S. Richardson School of Law

--
Lambda Law Student Association
2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
lambdalawhawaii@gmail.com
lambdalawpolitics@gmail.com

Lambda LSA seeks to foster communication regarding issues relating to persons of diverse sexual orientation and to bring greater awareness to the Law School community of these issues.

**Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive emails from Lambda LSA.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: k_miyata@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karli Miyata
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: k_miyata@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Shimi Rii and I strongly support SB 232 relating to civil unions.

I believe that all people should be treated equally under the law and this is something required by our Constitution. SB 232 extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. The issue of equal treatment for same-sex couples is the civil rights issue of this generation. Equality is a simple concept yet sadly has been out of reach to so many.

As a second job I used to tutor at the Kahala Branch of the Sylvan Learning Center. While I was there I had the pleasure of tutoring a little girl who, as I found out later, has two mothers that I happen to know from a separate engagement. I was delighted at how wonderful their little family was - the two mothers and the little girl reminded me of my little childhood, which consisted of just my mom, my sister, and myself. My parents separated when I was young, but my mother and father have always been in my life equally and I have benefited greatly from the rights and protections that are allowed in so-called "normal" marriages. I strongly believe that any family that is built on love and a strong desire to support each other should be given the rights and benefits given to spouses in a marriage. These rights should not be out of reach from those who are our neighbors, our friends, our loved ones, who are in no way different from us except for their sexual orientation, that of which, most of us know, is not a lifestyle "choice" but merely who they are. That being said, no one should be denied rights for living a happy life that everyone deserves.

I am an oceanographer who is born and raised in the islands of Hawaii and constantly seek to preserve the beauty and the natural wonders of our state. The natural beauty of our state does not just come from the ocean and the trees and the rainbows - it is, first and foremost, our people. Please vote in favor of SB 232 and help preserve our people. I appreciate your careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Shimi Rii

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Tara O'Neill and I am here to express my strong support for S.B. 232. At the heart of this bill is the belief that all people should be treated equally under the law and that our state Constitution serves to protect the economic and civil rights of all its citizens.

For ten years, I served as a public high school and middle school science teacher and recently became an Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. While still teaching seventh grade science, in June 2008, my long-term partner and I held a private commitment ceremony, where we dedicated our lives to each other. As a sign of this commitment, we exchanged rings. It is important at this point for me to explain that I do not regularly wear jewelry, and the only "jewelry" I am know to wear at school is a Timex sports watch. Thus, when I returned to teach following our commitment ceremony, my commitment ring was noticed immediately by my eagle-eyed seventh graders. Before I could finish explaining the class activity for the day, a student raised her hand and asked, "Did you get married?" I told her and the other students, "Not exactly but I will explain after class to those of you who are interested." And science class continued as planned.

When the students were dismissed, five elected to stay behind in an effort to get to the bottom of the marriage question. I explained that my partner and I had a commitment ceremony. To which a student asked, "Why didn't you get married?" I said that we did not get married because my partner is a woman and same-sex couples are not allowed to get married or have civil unions based on state and federal law. The five students were quiet for a moment and then one asked in thoughtful tone, "*Are you worth less than other couples?*" It is this student's response that has made the issues of civil unions in Hawaii central to my heart. While I was touched by how much love and support my students showed me in their genuine joy for my happiness, they

were upset that this was the first they had heard of my partner or my commitment to her and troubled at the idea that our love somehow counted for less.

I have had many students with two mothers, with gay and lesbian siblings, aunts or uncles, and students who identify themselves as gay and lesbian. The idea that my students question the worth of their gay parents' love and/or the value of themselves and their gay teachers, friends and family due to the lack of state and federal government action to uphold the civil rights of its gay and lesbian citizens brakes my heart.

The majority of the public, President Obama, Governor Abercrombie and the majority of the Hawaii Senate and House of Representatives support civil unions. The issue of equal treatment for same-sex couples is *the* civil rights issue of this generation. I ask that you support S.B. 232 and send a clear message to my thoughtful and confused students that the members of the gay and lesbian community that they love, admire and look-up to are not "less than" other people.

I appreciate your thoughtful and careful consideration.

Mahalo,

QuickTime™ and a
"decompressor"
are needed to see this picture.

Tara O'Neill, PhD

Home Address:
431 Nahua Street
Apt. 507
Honolulu HI 96815

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:46 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Importance: High

SB 232, Civil Unions
Sen Judiciary; Chair, Sen Hee

STRONG SUPPORT OF SB232!

It is time to right this dreadful wrong of discrimination. All loving couples whether -they be senior citizens, gays, lesbians- deserve the fundamental protections and rights under the law that we heterosexual couples receive. The lack of "equal protection under the law" for certain people clearly is discrimination, no matter how much the privileged majority wants to fight for exclusivity.

I trust that the Judiciary committee will move quickly in supporting this bill, getting it out of the way so that the rest of the session can be devoted to other issues. This bill was debated ad nauseum last session, and there is no need to clog up the legislative calendar with months of more debate.

Thank you for supporting this bill, and moving it quickly.

Aloha, joel.

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor (Ret.)
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

It is better to be "over the hill" than under it.
Anonymous

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: lydia3097@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lydia Kaneshiro
Organization: Individual
Address: Kalihi Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 847-2372
E-mail: lydia3097@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Please keep traditional marriages in our state of Hawaii. Our families, schools, businesses, our lifestyles will all be affected negatively by this bill. I am against this bill for same-sex marriages.

From: Jerry Jordan [jordajw1@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Please accept the following testimony in opposition to SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS submitted for delivery to the Hawaii State Senate COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR Hearing scheduled on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 A.M:

Senators:

I stand in firm opposition to SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS as discussed in the following comments:

While people are free to choose their own lifestyle, not in violation of the rule of law, their choices may not always be good for all of society.

Marriage is a fundamental institution of society, which must be protected and reserved for the unique and complementary union between one man and one woman. It is in the interest of the Government to accord special rights and privileges to the institution of marriage in order to foster and support marriage between one man and one woman so as to maintain society in the optimum family setting providing benefit to the couple and a father and a mother for any resultant offspring. No other human relationship provides that optimum setting for a child.

The People of the State of Hawaii in 1998 voted overwhelmingly to amend the Hawaii State Constitution reaffirming the power of the legislature to define Traditional Marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and only one man and one woman.

The Hawaii Supreme Court in *Baehr v. Miike*, affirmed the will of the people by ruling that restricting marriage to one man and one woman under Hawaii Revised Statute, Section 572-1 is not a violation of the equal protection clause of the Hawaii State Constitution and that same-sex marriage and civil unions are not Civil Rights.

If civil unions are enacted as provided in the SB 232 legislation, it will likely lead to same-sex marriage, as it did in the State of Connecticut. SB 232 civil unions legislation is, in fact, same-sex marriage in disguise (or merely by another name).

Equal rights are guaranteed no matter a person's gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation; however, no such guarantee exists for the institution of marriage.

SB 232 civil unions legislation is potentially flawed legislation, if enacted. Multiple legal, financial and technical aspects of the Bill require exhaustive review and thorough scrubbing to determine all possible unintended consequences of enacting SB 232.

The Hawaii Reciprocal Beneficiaries Act 383, codified into law in 1999, extends many of the benefits of Traditional Marriage sanctioned by the State to those couples consensually and legally declared in a Reciprocal Beneficiary relationship; no serious effort has been made to improve or update Act 383 and/or extend it to civil unions.

For the reasons, I stand in firm opposition to SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

Submitted:

Mr. Jerry W. Jordan
46-031 Kumoo Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-236-1480 (Home)

808-383-9190 (Cell)

The Impact of Civil Unions on Hawai'i's Economy

Sumner La Croix

Professor, Department of Economics, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa

E-mail: lacroix@hawaii.edu

Kimberley Burnett

Assistant Specialist, University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, University of Hawaii-Manoa

E-mail: kburnett@hawaii.edu

Date: 24 January 2011

Testimony: SB232

How many same-sex couples in Hawai'i will choose civil unions?

- 2005 U.S. Census survey shows 3,262 self-declared same-sex couples in Hawai'i.
- Based on civil union license rates in other civil union states, we estimate that between 1,600 and 2,300 same-sex couples living in Hawai'i will enter into civil unions between July 2009 and June 2015. Best estimate is 1,962 couples.

Will Hawai'i's legalization of civil unions affect tourism to Hawai'i?

- There is **no evidence** that states allowing same-sex marriages (Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont—and the District of Columbia) or recognizing same-sex marriages (New York, Rhode Island, and Maryland) or domestic partnerships or domestic partnerships (5 states) have had declines in tourism or business travel.
- Some increase in tourism is likely due to couples from other civil union states visiting Hawai'i for their civil union ceremony or honeymoon as well as friends and relatives visiting Hawai'i to attend ceremonies for in-state and out-of-state couples.
 - 9,500 annual additional visitor days.
 - Additional annual visitor spending of roughly \$3.6 million.
 - Multiplier effect (1.94) will expand spending to \$6.9 million.

How will legalization of civil unions affect state government revenue and spending?

- Increase in state revenue from civil union registration fee.
- Increases in state excise tax revenues due to additional visitor spending.
- Increases in state income tax revenues due to higher visitor expenditures.
- Minimal costs of implementing civil unions include new forms, computer programming, and training sessions for staff in Depts. of Taxation and Health.

Will Hawai'i State and County Governments face higher health insurance expenses?

- **No**, domestic partners (and their children) of state and county employees are already covered under the state's EUTF health, drug, dental, and vision plans.

Will private employers in Hawaii face higher health insurance expenses?

- **No**, for private firms not offering health coverage to spouses and children.

- For private firms offering health coverage to spouse and children:
 - Additional federal taxes due on health ins. Premiums limit take-up rates.
 - Best estimate: 23-46 partners and 16-32 children sign up for coverage.
Context: 714,000 people in Hawai'i over age 18 have private health insurance (most of which is employer-provided coverage).

The views expressed in this paper are those of Sumner La Croix and Kimberly Burnett and are not the official views of the University of Hawaii, the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization or the University of Hawaii Dept. of Economics

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:52 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jvp@spacecraft.net
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jesse Valentine Portz
Organization: Individual
Address: 1422 HEULU ST A104 HONOLULU, HI
Phone: 808-224-6252
E-mail: jvp@spacecraft.net
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

I write to testify in strong support of SB 232. Civil union provide profound legal benefits for those couples that do not want or are not allowed to have a full marriage under the current discriminatory law.

As many in our society prefer to not be shackled by our parents' religion, we are not interested in forming a state registered marriage. Freedom from religion is just as important as freedom to practice religion as one sees fit.

It is my opinion that by instituting the practice of marriage into legal code benefits that are only available to married persons have been ensconced into law. The state has no business regulating people's relationships, and should not be in the marriage business. This strikes me as a violation of the first amendment to the US constitution. The creation of Civil Unions in Hawaii will allow for the equal rights of all eligible couples to be recognized by the State of Hawaii.

From: Kae Toguchi [kaetog@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Important Message Please Read:

Hello sir or ma'am,

My name is Ms. Kae Toguchi and I am an member of American Civil Liberties Union. To continue on with this message i would like to clarify about the same sex issue, that you are disturbed by. My feelings and opinion to this whole situation is non sense. Answer this question and carefully. No excuses, what so ever. I want to know why there is no bill for the different genders and only for the gay marriage area? How come you never did that before and why? I think it's not right and i feel like it's ignorant towards your length of seeing one length to another and seem to be disturb by the situation and knowing that you want to make that an bill when it makes you feel uncomfortable and so you can go and make an big bill. Relationships during the process with gay marriages has nothing to do with comfort. You need to accept the process with this situation. What is your uncomfortableness about these things that are assumed to your habit to assume by law? Section 232 should be in an process of your negativity and not your procedure of accepting it anyways. I called this childish behavior. Doing something that you want to do and not asking a lot of people or putting an petition that how many people feel about this situation. The people that work for that state need to learn the comfort between this process of accepting an individual person to be on the same gender and not learning how to do something about it and not discuss about this process with any other resident in Hawaii. You may think this is not true. To me it is. You need to use common sense and your mouth that opens and see where that words come out and know how to put on the bill on a table. That shouldn't be working that way. When, my cousin Charles Toguchi was working for the state. Do you see him making bunch of laws for himself? Do you see President Obama doing each bill because he dislikes it? I don't think so. This process is not an good idea. You should of thought of it before when you made this law again. You are very irresponsible of your needs. These are the grounds you need to learn.

1. Responsibility
2. Capability
3. Reliable to Hawaii Residents
4. Role Models for Hawaii People

That is not happening towards these procedures. I lived in Hawaii since i was born on January 27th ,1982 and i don't see Hawaii to recommend aloha spirit or uniting with each other. Please think about the areas in this process. I have gay friends and i don't like the concept in this area that you can make bills that you are disturbed by. It doesn't seem you don't care about the residents in Hawaii. Just money and business. People needs to come first and not just money and business all together. It doesn't make sense at all. That one person discuss about it and disturbs upon it. So,they can make a law about it. How are you going to think about the process that people that are in the same sex marriage , how they feel about this whole thing? I want to tell you something the world isn't about money. It's about Aloha Spirit and Ohana , not money and business. Answer this question. How come you never made a petition out in the first place before this bill came up? You might think it's not your fault. You want to blame people about your problems with this bill. It shouldn't be working that way. You should know what tolerance is. If King Kamehameha was still alive and the royal natives Hawaiians were still alive. And, you made this law. How do you think they will feel about this whole process of negativity issue? Making choices about this area is not good. I am very disappointed of judging other people of what they believe in and not trusting them what they believe in about their relationship. I don't know how President Obama feels about this bill. You can contact me on e-mail. Since, i am at disability agency.

KaeTog@gmail.com .

Ma halo Nui Loa,

Ms.Kae Toguchi

Participant of Winners at Work DBA Abilities Unlimited

Client of North Shore Mental Health Under Adult Mental Health

Daughter of owner HighWayInn Incorporated Taste of Old Hawaii

Volunteer and Member of American Civil Liberties Union

Volunteering as a Job at Honolulu Zoo (only on Monday's. If you any questions about that e-mail me)

Member of American Heart Association

Member of American Red Cross

Member of Southern Poverty Law Center

Member of Equine advocates

Member of North Shore Animal League

Member of League for Women Conservative

Member of League for Conservation

Member of Tiger Haven

Member of United State Senate

Member of Tiger Creek

Member of International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

Member of Ocean Conservancy

Member of Green Peace

Member of Amnesty International

Member of In Defense of Animals

Member of World Wild Life Fund

Member of Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue

Member of The Cornell Lab

Member of Foundation for International community Assistance (FIN CA)

Member of National Anti-vivisection

Member of National Wildlife Federation

Member of Planned Parent Hood

Member of Bishop Museum

Member of Easter Seals Hawaii

Member of Forest service Employees for environmental Ethics

Member of Orphan Acres

Member of Ox fam America

Member of Sierra Club

Member of Center for Biological Diversity

Member of AHAHUI MALAMA IKA LOKAHI

Member of Union Concerned Scientist

Member of The Smile Train

Member of Forever of wild exotic animal

Member of The Wilderness Society

Member of Animal Legal Defense Fund

Member of The Hawaiian Humane Society & The Humane Society of The United States

Member of Rescue Animals

Member of Save The RedWoods

Member of Public Citizen

Member of AdpotAPlatoon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: justincaseforreal@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carmela Tafoya
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: justincaseforreal@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:
Please be civil about unions in Hawaii, it is time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:55 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jmj@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony SB232.doc

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jean Au
Organization: Individual
Address: 818 Kaha Place Kailua, HI
Phone: (808)383-5635
E-mail: jmj@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee members –

I am here today to ask that you please oppose Civil Union bill SB232. You may think why go through all this hassle again, why not just let this legislation pass? Marriage is a very important moral issue – not an issue of equality. Do not confuse these two issues.

Marriage is a sacred act between a man and a woman. I tell that to my children. I don't tell them that marriage is a civil union between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. To a child it just doesn't make sense. Wouldn't you agree that children have a lot of common sense and wisdom? If proponents want to cohabit together and be treated equally as married couples then reciprocal beneficiaries act affords them equal benefits under the law. If this act needs amending then change the law, not marriage. Please don't support a bill that will change the definition of marriage. This bill is basically a same sex marriage law under the guise of civil union language.

If you have any hesitation in your heart in allowing this bill to become law, and how it will affect the people of our beautiful island home, I urge you to oppose bill SB232. Rather, allow us, the people of Hawaii to vote on it in our next general election. Thank you.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

THE SENATE

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Tuesday, January 25, 2011; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 232
RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 232, which extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

Our support is embodied in the ILWU's motto which declares: "An Injury to One is an Injury to All." This statement is the first in our Union's Declaration of Principles that clearly opposes discrimination in any form.

S.B. 232 seeks to remedy the inequality suffered by same sex couples and heterosexual couples who choose not to marry for a host of legitimate reasons when they are denied the rights and benefits that married heterosexual couples enjoy.

It is not the intent of S.B. 232 to provide for marriage between individuals of the same sex. Through this bill, the Legislature is making clear that marriage remains the privilege of one man and one woman. S.B. 232 also does not require anyone to perform the solemnization of a civil union. The choice is theirs to do or not. However, what S.B. 232 does is extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities to partners in a civil union that spouses in a marriage enjoy. S.B. 232 will provide for equality in a society that promotes equality on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age. Why not provide for the same kind of equality for same sex couples unable to marry and heterosexual couples choosing not to marry?

The issue of promoting equality and banishing discrimination should not be put to a popular vote. Elected leaders of this State--in this case, the Legislature and the Governor--must set aside emotional rhetoric, weigh the facts, and do what is right. And what is right is to establish a law allowing civil unions in order to preserve democracy and equality for all.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 232. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HANNAH MIYAMOTO

SOCIOLOGY DEPT. • SAUNDERS HALL 247
2424 MAILE WAY • hsmiyamoto@msn.com

January 23, 2011

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions, and
Illegal expenditures by Hawaii Family Forum against Civil Unions

Honorable Senators,

After working passionately for HB 444 last year, and enduring the disappointment of witnessing it being vetoed, I can share little more eloquence. Please pass SB 232 so that Hawai‘i can retake its place among the states of the United States moving toward justice and social progress.

I regret being unable to present my testimony in person, due to teaching commitments.

In addition, I am outraged by the decision of the Hawaii Family Forum (HFF) to purchase television advertisements against civil unions that were broadcast this weekend, and presumably continue through today. Given their content and timing, these advertisements definitely constitute an attempt to influence the passage or defeat of legislation. In return for the right to collect tax-deductible donations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and a similar Hawai‘i income tax law, HFF is not permitted to expend a substantial portion of its funds for influencing the passage or defeat of legislation, contribute to election campaigns, and support other activities prohibited to an organization formed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Given that HFF was recently fined \$20,000 for violating the same laws, and remains under IRS investigation for 2010 crimes, do not take any action that would reward and encourage criminal defiance to these laws of general applicability. Swiftly passing SB 232, without or without strengthening amendments, would demonstrate your abhorrence of anarchists and scofflaws, even those claiming religion as a justification or excuse.

Mahalo and Aloha,

/s/

Hannah Miyamoto, J.D., M.S.



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 3226
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801
PHONE: (808) 586-0255
FAX: (808) 586-0231

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, January 25th, 2011
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 016

Testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 232**, Relating to Civil Unions

Dear Chair Hee, Vice- Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 232; a bill that grants the rights, responsibilities, benefits and protections currently only available to opposite gender couples.

Two years ago the legislature opened serious discussions on this issue. There has been a complete and robust debate in our community and all sides have been given the opportunity to express their views. During this time, the Iowa Supreme Court found that same gender couples should be granted equal rights under their state's law and only a month ago the Illinois Legislature extended equal rights via civil unions to same gender couples.

There is no compelling reason our state should not extend basic rights and responsibilities to everyone. I support this legislation for the thousands of couples in Hawaii and their families who want the same protections that other citizens enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Kurihara-Klein, Michele [mkurihara@hgea.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 2:55 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 Testimony
Attachments: sb232.PDF

Attached, please find testimony in support of SB232.

Thank you,
Michele

Michele Kurihara-Klein
direct: (808) 543-0093
fax: (808) 528-4059
mkurihara@hgea.org



Hawai'i Government Employees Association
Unity. Pride. Strength. Service. Compassion.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email message including any attachments is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, use, disclosure or distribution by unintended recipients is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0003
Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0055
Fax: 808.523.6879

**The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Hawaii State Senate
Regular Session of 2011
Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

**Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 25, 2011**

**S.B. 232 – Relating to
Civil Unions**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 232 which proposes to extend to partners in a civil union the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association is the State's largest labor union, representing more than 28,000 public employees. In May 2008, the HGEA General Assembly, our union's highest policy-making body, resolved to support efforts to establish civil unions in Hawaii. Delegates from all islands and all HGEA bargaining units voted to advance equal protection, support and respect for workers, including our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) brothers and sisters. Without passage of the proposed measure, certain benefits gained in contract negotiations will not be realized by families of LGBT employees.

We urge passage of this bill to address the needs of same gender couples to have benefits, rights and entitlements equal to those of all other working families in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 232.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL 5 HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Monday, January 24, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Judiciary & Labor
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing nearly 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organizations full support for the intent of Senate Bill 232 relating to Civil Unions. But as this Legislature continues to convene discussion on this most important of issues, we would also humbly ask for consideration of Senate Bill 231 which would improve upon clarifying the intent and purpose of Senate Bill 232.

In sum, SB 232 is not about validating people's existence, nor is it about endangering social institutions. This bill is about economic justice, and the right of each of us to expect and receive fair treatment from our government.

Equality before the law is not a new concept. The notion that all people have a right to equal treatment from government is at the foundation of our democracy. It is the basic ideal that our government is expected to live up to. But in a society where our government has solemnly pledged to provide equal rights for all, we have failed to do so for some.

Equal rights and equal treatment for all is not just the right thing to do. It is key to bringing our society together, so we can work toward a common purpose. Our union has learned this, not from any book, but in practice.

Our union is an organization whose mission, role and existence is founded on the solidarity and concerted activity of our members. Our most fundamental task is to build unity and common purpose among our members. To do this, we must overcome divisions of all sorts that exist among our extended family. We need to bring people whose ancestors have been here for centuries together with those recently arrived from many countries. In order to have the power to protect any of our members, we must unite people of different religions, different languages, different skin colors, different traditions. And, different ways of living their private lives, and organizing their families.

In order for each person to commit to building our union, we have to fight for every person. Our members need to see us include everyone, for each individual to feel included.

That's why we fight for immigrant rights at the same time we fight for the rights of Native Hawaiians. We fight for equal treatment between men and women, between young and old, between races of people from all over the globe.

That's why we fight for the rights of those of us whose families are different, who have fallen in love differently. If we fail to fight for each, we undermine the unity and power of all.

Now is the time for Hawaii's legislature to take a stand. Bring us together. Care for all of us, equally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gill", written in a cursive style.

Eric Gill
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:26 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jeankcampbell@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jean Campbell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jeankcampbell@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:26 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: shelby.inouye@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shelby Inouye
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shelby.inouye@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

I am a 24-year-old student. I know that you have heard the arguments on both sides, and I am sure you are well aware that the majority of my generation supports civil unions. I don't know how much this will affect your decision, but I feel it is my duty to submit my testimony. I am just another child of Hawaii and aspiring physician who will not consider a career in Hawaii if it means living as a second-class citizen. Thank you very much for your time.

IN SUPPORT OF SB 232

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are Colleen Murphy and Monica Grant, Kaneohe residents and homeowners and a same-sex couple, together since 2000. I am a Realtor and Director of Associate Development with RE/MAX Honolulu, and Monica is Vice President of Resource Development with the YMCA of Honolulu. **We stand in strong support of SB 232.** We are honored and moved to be a part of this important discussion, and sincerely thank you for hearing these testimonies today and for your consideration of the bill.

Like so many others that have moved to Hawaii, we came here because of the promise – both declared and unspoken – that this is a place that truly opens its arms to all people with a spirit of Aloha. However, although we have been humbled by the friendship we have been offered in our six years here, we have been deeply saddened by some of the realities of living in Hawaii as a same-sex couple.

We struggle with this paradox; and yet all we wish to do is thrive here and give this community all we have to offer in return. We give of our time, our money, and our voices, as members of the Hawaii business community, as community volunteers, and as tax-paying, law-abiding citizens. We work, worship and play here, and we, our families, our friends, our co-workers and our communities wish for us to be recognized as equal, and have our relationship recognized as a legal civil union.

Please know that a “yes” vote on this legislation will not only prove another landmark in civil rights and equality (for which you should be truly proud), it will also send a strong message that Hawaii embraces and welcomes all people, including its gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.

We ask for your support on SB 232; it is the right and just thing to do. Thank you for considering legislation that will have a positive impact on the lives of so many Hawaii citizens for generations to come.

Mahalo,



Colleen Murphy and Monica Grant
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:24 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: chasetajima@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chase Tajima
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: chasetajima@mac.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

January 24, 2011

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of Sheryl L. Nicholson in Support of S.B. 232,
HD1, Relating to Civil Unions

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in support of S.B. 232, HD1, Relating to Civil Unions.

By conferring on partners to a civil union more of the rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of same-gender couples, SB 232 is a significant and important step toward closing the gap in treatment between heterosexual “married” couples on one hand, and gay and lesbian couples who intend the same committed relationship, in Hawai`i. Gay and lesbian couples, for example, currently do not have the right to jointly adopt a child in a single court proceeding, nor are private employers required to offer health benefits to same-sex couples on the same basis as married couples. SB 232 would correct these and other inequities.

Admittedly, the bill does not go the full distance to enable gay and lesbian couples who wish to marry the enjoyment of the status of marriage and all of the corresponding rights, benefits and protections afforded heterosexual married couples under all laws. Civil unions are not marriages, and as history has taught us, separate is not the equivalent of equal. Full marriage equality should remain our collective objective.

In the meantime, SB 232 is an important step toward that objective.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sheryl L. Nicholson, Esq,
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1300
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813
Tel.: (808) 524-1212

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:23 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association (est. 1982)
Address: P O Box 37403 Honolulu, HI 96837
Phone: 808-587-2140 no voice mail
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:
Jan. 24, 2011
1:28 pm

Chair, Senate JDL Committee
State of Hawaii
Right Hnorable Members of the JDL Committees

I support SB 343 Relating to Civil Unions.

Please forward this along expeditiously.

Suggested amendment, if pragmatic, is to change the effective date to July 1, 2011 ilo of the current 2012 date. Recommend more discussino on the merit of this amendment as the Session nears the mid-point.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arvid T. Youngquist
Chair, The Mestizo Association
Kalihi Valley resident

From: Andrea Ushijima [andreaushijima@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:21 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

Dear Sir or Madam:

I strongly support Senate Bill 232, the Civil Unions bill. As a married constituent, I strongly support the ability for all citizens to be able to enter into a state-recognized union.

Sincerely,
Andrea Ushijima
3449 Akaka Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Josh Reppun [josh@reppun.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:14 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

In 1993 my ex-wife and I divorced. Prior to our divorce we were living in Iowa City where I was going to school. We had a daughter, Emma, who was two years old. We moved back to Hawaii in 1992 and continued living together for a year for the sake of our daughter's welfare. In 1993 we officially divorced and Ann, my ex-wife, took up with her now lesbian parter Michelle, first back in Iowa City, then in San Francisco (Marin County). Emma is now 19 years old and a very aware, very worldly, very articulate, very compassionate, very wonderful and smart college freshman at University of California at Santa Barbara. She was largely raised by her "two Moms," her biological mother, Ann, my ex-wife, and Ann's partner, Michelle. Emma is the product of the superb parenting skills of her two mothers. They navigated her through her terrible teens and high school. They supported her when she was teased by kids at her school, and when the family car was burned by gay bashing hate mongers. They built in her a moral core that is steel-like, born of the crucible that was their family life. To argue that two loving mothers, together now for 17 years, should not be given the same benefits of union is to argue against the fundamental nature of liberty upon which this country was founded. Do Ann and Michelle, living in California, deserve the same civil rights that the rest of us heterosexual couples enjoy? That the question needs to be asked is completely absurd. All Americans are covered by the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Please support SB232 and make the benefits of union a fundamental and equally covered right in the State of Hawaii.

Much Aloha,
Joshua E. Reppun

Personal information below:

Joshua E. Reppun
Honolulu, Hawai'i
www.joshreppun.com
808.342.0504

History is interim reports issued periodically.
~ Anonymous

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:20 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: lopezan@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anne
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lopezan@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:
I strongly support passing this bill. All residents of Hawaii should be treated equally.

From: Laurie Cicotello [lcicotello@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:09 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232: Testimony

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB232

Hearing: 10 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, Conference Room 016

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Ihara, Senator Slom and Senator Gabbard:

Aloha. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify before you this morning. My name is Laurie Cicotello and I live in Moili‘ili. I come before you today in support of Senate Bill 232 to legalize Civil Unions. I represent COLAGE, Children of Lesbians and Gays

Everywhere. Founded more than 20 years ago, COLAGE envisions a world in which all families are valued, protected, reflected and embraced by society and all of its institutions.

I strongly believe all unions between two consenting adults should be treated equally under the law and as protected by the United States Constitution. Senate Bill 232 would provide the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities to partners in civil unions as to those people in traditional marriages. In addition, children of same-sex couples are currently without the same family protections and benefits provided to children of opposite-sex couples. All families and their children will benefit from the passage of Senate Bill 232.

My parents will proudly celebrate their 42nd anniversary on February 1, 2011 – in a legal, now same-sex marriage. In 1969, at Sacred Hearts Catholic Church in Milwaukee, my folks committed in front of God, their family and friends to “Let No One Rend Asunder” their wedding vows. More than 25 years ago, my parent, Dainna, completed the transition from male to female. She and my mom, Mary, decided to stay together and remain married during this intensely personal and emotional change. They are the first couple in the United States to remain legally married following Dainna’s transition.

Over the years, various people from all walks of life have had no problem telling me they feel my parent’s marriage is null and void. I have been told that children are “better off raised in traditional families,” whatever that means. I have a successful writing career and even served as a communications specialist in Governor Linda Lingle’s executive office. Much better off being raised in a nontraditional family, I am moral, healthy and successful. I also have a great deal more compassion for all family structures.

To that end, I join my parents and countless other ‘ohana across the country in fighting for equality and justice within the law. As my parents travel the country, we are never sure which states will still recognize their marriage and their commitment to “Let No One Rend Asunder” their vows.

In 1996, Colorado overturned State Amendment 2 after the United States Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Romer v. Evans* that “an identifiable group of people could not be walled off from the legal system.” Because marriage—and now civil unions—are first and foremost legal contracts

and agreements, the proof of which is that while many, but not all, weddings take place in churches, ALL divorces must take place in a courtroom. Thus, not allowing a certain identifiable group of people to enter into a legal contract effectively walls them off from the legal system.

There is also no way to define the terms, “male,” “female,” “man,” or “woman,” legally or otherwise and no criteria to write those definitions. We are more alike than we are different on every consideration. For example, the International Olympic Committee stopped chromosomal testing in 1994 after finding too many athletes were not exclusively XX or XY.

In addition to supporting the legalization of civil unions, I also kindly ask that Hawai‘i honor the “Full Faith and Credit” afforded under the United States Constitution regarding marriages, civil unions, domestic partnerships or similar legal recognitions between two consenting adults.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support of Senate Bill 232 recognizing Same-Sex Civil Unions. Thank you for your consideration and support of my family and all families like mine.

Imua Hawai‘i!

Laurie Cicotello

2740 Kuilei St.

#2404

Honolulu HI 96826

From: MARPAT97@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:07 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Congratulations and mahalo to those responsible for drafting SB232 in support of civil unions within the State of Hawaii. It is definitely time for ALL of our citizens to be given the same legal rights as everyone else.

I look forward to this bill being passed in the 2011 legislative session.

Mahalo.
Marilyn Martinson
Waialua, HI 96791

From: Matthew Yoshida [matthewyoshida@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:04 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

Dear sir or madam,

I am writing to express my support for the Civil Unions bill SB 232. I feel this is an important issue for civil rights in Hawaii, and passing this bill will be a significant step toward ending discrimination against members of the LGBT community.

Sincerely,
Matthew Yoshida

From: Gina Cardazone [ginamaria@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 1:02 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 A.M to completion
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

To the Senate Judiciary Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB232 on Civil Unions. As a Christian, I am continually saddened by the insistence of some factions of our faith on speaking out against equal rights ostensibly in the name of the defense of religion. Like many of my brothers and sisters, I've come to see my faith as requiring respect for the differences in all people, and gratitude for love in all of its forms. Many will appeal to religious sensibilities and speak as if their opposition to same-sex unions is the undisputed word of God, but this is far from true. Moreover, matters of personal faith, which are heavily debated in our churches, cannot and should not be settled in legislation. The separation of church and state exists to protect the integrity of both.

Again, I urge you to support this bill to show that Hawaii cares for its citizens in all its diversity.

Sincerely,

Gina Cardazone
2637 Kuilei St. Apt A51
Honolulu HI 96826

Testimony of

Rev. Daniel Paul de Gracia, Concerned Citizen

Offering comments on the measure of
Senate Bill No. 232, Relating to Civil Unions

before the

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday January 25, 2011 Conference Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the measure of Senate Bill No. 232, Relating to Civil Unions.

While there is much controversy regarding the root issue of civil unions, I wish to direct your attention to Page 8, Section 4, Lines 10 thru 14 which seek to codify amended definitions to "spouse" and "family". It is my interpretation that neither the Congress under the limited powers of Article I of the U.S. Constitution nor the Hawaii State Legislature operating under the auspices of the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the same have the legal mandate to specifically define what construes a "spouse" or "family" as these fall under the domain of private, personal and religious interpretation and are powers reserved to the individual.

Both the Federal and State Government have the Constitutional power to regulate commerce through licenses but they do not have the power to regulate relationships. I would personally argue that the power of government to license marriage of any form - heterosexual or homosexual - is an usurpation of the powers granted by the Constitution. The sheer fact that the U.S. Constitution does not mention marriage condemns licensure of marriage by its silence.

Without even getting into the philosophical arguments for or against a certain form of marriage or cohabitation, it should be understood that free association is a key element of an individual's God-given right to enter into covenants as they please and that a license turns a right into a privilege. The very beginnings of the American revolution date to when Patrick Henry witnessed a minister who was tied to a pole and whipped nearly to death with a sign attached to him reading, "Scourged for not taking a license." We would not even be having a controversy or discussion about the political acceptability of civil unions if our government did not have a stake in the marriage business.

Economist Milton Friedman wrote, "A society that puts equality before freedom will get neither. A society that puts freedom before equality will get a high degree of both." In short, the power of government to define and regulate human intimate relationships does not add equality, it diminishes it for both heterosexuals and homosexuals alike. The most libertarian and equitable solution is to abolish entirely the state's power to selectively choose winners and losers in human relationships whether it be in taxes, socio-economic privileges or plaudits from an approving government. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: Darci [darci@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please Support SB232, Civil Unions

Importance: High

RE: SB232, Civil Unions
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

I am a local woman who has been married to my haole husband for 19 years, and we support Civil Unions for ALL Americans.

When we elected our first African American President, it was a momentous moment and the excitement in that moment was incredible! I'm sure women felt that same excitement and sense of liberation when they were finally allowed to vote. Many service men and women and their families and partners and all those who have been fighting to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell were overjoyed when Congress finally voted to repeal DADT.

We have come this far in the fight for civil liberties not out of sheer luck or by accident, but because we have transcended ignorance and overcame intolerance. Now is the time to make Hawai'i live up to the true meaning of being the Aloha State and let the Spirit of Aloha conquer hate and end the injustices that our LGBT citizens have and continue to suffer.

Whether it is in our schools, workplace, justice system, and community, we must put an end to the injustice of unlawful bullying. Denying Americans their right to pursue happiness, enjoy life and their freedom on the account of their sex by respecting an establishment of religion is unconstitutional. Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders are not 2nd, 3rd or 4th Class citizens. Just like their straight counterparts, they are 1st Class Americans!

When President Obama walked out as our new President, it was momentous moment because we were here to witness that moment. I ask that you too support SB232 and vote in favor of Civil Unions so that we can all be witnesses to another momentous moment for civil liberties.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darcianne Ernce

From: Steve Williams [hirealtor@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Sb 232 Testimony

To Whom it May Concern:

Senate Bill SB 232 (testimony to be heard on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 A.M) is yet another attempt to force upon the people of Hawaii something that they already have voted to reject repeatedly. Anybody who votes in favor of this bill will go on record as unworthy of serving a public which has spoken loud and clear on the topic.

For government to pro-actively decide to confer a set of benefits on a particular interest group (especially in a bad recession), there'd better be a very compelling reason. According to The American Psychological Association, and Dr. Francis Collins, head of the Human Genome Project, no "gay gene" has been found, and homosexuality is not hardwired, meaning that although there are overlapping and complex reasons that people become homosexual, homosexuals are not born that way:

"[S]exual orientation is genetically influenced but not hardwired by DNA, and that whatever genes are involved represent predispositions, not predeterminations."--p. 260, The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief, Dr. Francis Collins, 2006.

A bit of reflection on this matter leads to the obvious supportive truth that any gene that prohibits procreation will not be passed on to offspring (think about it). "A desire" does not equal "a trait", even in the face of negative consequences (eg. drugs and alcohol).

Therefore, the analogy to civil rights struggle is **imprecise**; the HB444 lobby is an interest group seeking to dovetail onto the nobility of the real civil rights movement, which pursued equality of opportunity with regard to *inherent* traits, not for *acquired* traits. There is a large gulf between the two.

Our system of Government does basically three things;

- 1) Prohibits certain things
- 2) Permits certain things
- 3) Promotes certain things that meet a set of particular minimal conditions (like helping to stabilize society).

Traditional marriage obviously meets condition #'s 2 and 3. Homosexual marriage does not, therefore, it should not be promoted by government. That doesn't mean anybody hates homosexuals. It means that there should not be any exceptions made to the minimum necessary conditions being met. It should be obvious that if you make exceptions for one group, you will then be compelled to do so for another, and another, ad infinitum.

Thank you,

--

Steve J. Williams (RA) CNAS CNRS

Aloha Aina Award Winner
Realty Executives Oahu
Reasonable Faith Honolulu
(808) 282-5630

"And if your wheels are sinkin' low.....":

<http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/sgeb-2nd-edition/7508055>

Isaiah: 53 <><

CONFIDENTIALITY: The information contained in this email message is confidential and is intended only for the intended recipient(s). This email message is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this email message is not the intended recipient (or the person responsible for the delivery of this email message to an intended recipient), you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error, and that any reuse, review, printing, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this email message in error, please reply to the sender that you have received the message in error and delete it.

From: Edmund Yee [edmund.yee@hawadvocate.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support Senate Bill 232 - Civil Unions

I wholeheartedly support S.B. 232. I do so as a married man, an actively practicing Roman Catholic, and a believer in justice and full equality.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Edmund K. U. Yee
138 Pinana Street
Kailua, HI 96734
Telephone: 262-4832

The information contained in this electronic message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it 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 and return the original message to us at acnsn@hawadvocate.com. Thank you.

From: Maika'i [rubadubtubbs@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:44 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support of SB232

Aloha all,

My name is Maika'i James Henry Kawaila'ila'i Tubbs and I am writing this testimonial in support of SB232. Mahalo to the committee for taking the time to read my letter.

I am a 32 year old local boy, born and raised right here in Kapahulu. After growing up surrounded by comments like "That guy's such a freakin' fairy!" and "That is sooo gay!" I found it was easier to stay in the closet. Comments like those were as common as saying hello and a lot of my friends said similar things not knowing about me. I found myself saying the same things because I convinced myself it was funny, even though I knew it was hurtful. The things I've done to conform sometimes as an adolescent seem mind-boggling to me now as an adult. After college I came out to my friends and it was amazing. They all accepted me and soon after I met the perfect man. His name is Daniel Chun and on March 1st we will have been together for 7 wonderful years.

I am writing to you today because I used to dream of the day when our relationship would be recognized by the place we call home and live in a place where we felt accepted. For almost 7 years, I have gotten over the gawking we get when we walk through the grocery store and I occasionally put my hand on his waist. I have looked the other way while hearing comments from the row behind us in the theater when we hold hands through an emotional movie. And I have even turned a blind eye when people stopped eating after watching us share a kiss over our anniversary or birthday dinner. I have ignored all of this with the hope that someday these simple acts of human affection would be normal for society to accept. Ultimately, I would love nothing more than for our home to recognize us and grant us the same rights as our heterosexual families and friends. Please help us to achieve our dream by passing SB232. And I hope the next time we bump into you in a grocery store, movie theater or restaurant, we can thank you all in person.

Mahalo again for your time,
Maika'i

From: irene [iwhm@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:40 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

Date 1/24/11

Subject: Bill SB 232

Attention to the Judiciary Committee

TO Honorable Clayton Hee, Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Honorable Mike Gabbard, Honorable Les Ihara, Honorable Sam Slom.

**Thank you for being a public leader for our wonderful State.
I am asking with humbleness that you oppose this Bill SB 232.**

This bill is an open door for issues that will affect the family structure for our State and our Great Country.

**I love the homosexual people....
There are laws...laws are to protect Society for good reasons.
I know, I do not need to explain in greater details. I am CONFIDENT each ONE of YOU know why I am opposing
this Bill.**

Thank you for your precious time in this matter.

Appreciate all of you.

Irene Morgan
P. O. Box 186
Lawai, Hi 96765

From: Natalie Peguero [Natalie.Peguero@Colorado.EDU]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In support of SB232

To whom it may concern:

Being denied equal rights and recognition has many different impacts on my life. I recently graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BS in Business Management, and have been with my partner for almost 6 years. Being in an openly same-sex relationship has not been easy.

We recently moved out here because my partner is currently attending law school. I started working full time and just qualified for medical insurance but am not able to put my partner down as my spouse since civil unions are not legal in the state of Hawaii. It is really hard to know that I've dedicated most of my life to one person and am unable to provide for her and she thus has to be uninsured because our relationship isn't recognized.

Having same-sex relationships be recognized would mean that I can provide health insurance for my partner, it would mean that we could take care of each other's finances, that no outsiders would be able to interfere in our relationship pertaining to things we've accomplished together. It would also establish a strong foundation for future generations to be able to openly express their love as they wish. This is ultimately a human rights issue, which is why I strongly support SB 232.

Thank you for your time,
Natalie Peguero
2804 Winam Ave apt B
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Walter Delos Reyes [wilie@mauigateway.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Holy Innocents Episcopal Church Support of SB232

January 24, 2011

Subject: Testimony re: SB232

Aloha Senator Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

The membership and ohana of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina, Maui would like to go on public record as strongly supporting SB232. The Civil Unions Bill is not about religious weddings or values. It takes nothing away from the existing institution of marriage or families. It is about honoring all as equal human beings and strengthening our society through strong, loving and secure family units.

In the Episcopal Church, our baptismal vow, which we reiterate with every baptism done, contains these questions to the congregation: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself" and "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?"

To these questions and to SB232, we offer a resounding yes! We stand together as a Christian community acting on our baptismal vow: equal rights and dignity are deserved by every human being and by every family. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church stands in favor of SB232.

We thank you for your willingness to strive for justice for all in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

The Vestry

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church

Box 606

Lahaina, HI 96761

Diane Delos Reyes, Senior Warden

Marc Orgish, Junior Warden

Jackie Kelly, Clerk

Nancy Sherman, Treasurer

Chris Gale

Scott McCoy

Donna Tarsitano

Penny Wakida

Testimony for Public Hearing of the Judiciary Committee scheduled for 10am on 01/25/2011 regarding SB232...

My name is Vincent Browne. I am a minister, and licensed wedding officiant, here in the state of Hawaii. I make my living joining couples together in marriage. I preformed about 250 legal wedding services last year alone, not to mention several other vow renewals as well. Yet, when I got married to my partner of 10 years, I had to travel almost 5000 to MA, because my marriage isn't legal here in Hawaii. Do you not see the irony in that.

I do want to stress that I did not get a civil union, I got married. I support the concept of civil unions, as far as the concept of granting equal rights, and I will support this bill if it is the only available path toward some type of equal rights, but I do want to stress my belief that equal but separate is not equal. I urge this body to amend this bill, or to submit new legislation to grant full marriage to same sex couples, just as MA, and other states have done.

Many people will say that this is not possible, because of the constitutional amendment which was passed regarding defining marriage between one man and one woman. However, as I am sure the members of this body are aware, all that amendment did was empower the legislature to define marriage, as one man and one woman, but it did not require the legislature to define marriage in that way, nor does it prevent the legislature from changing that definition at any time. Therefore, nothing in that amendment would prevent the legislature from including same sex couples in the definition of marriage, and in fact, the amendment makes it clear that such power to define marriage, is within the power of the legislature.

Including same sex couples in the definition of marriage makes far more sense than creating civil unions, because the state of Hawaii already recognizes a distinction between civil and religious marriage. Line 20 of ever marriage license I fill out says "Type of Ceremony (enter civil or religious). According to the Hawaii State Dept. of Health, the answer to this question has nothing to do with the ceremony itself, but rather, who preforms it. If the service is preformed by a clergymen, or other religious authority, they must enter "religious". If the service is preformed by a judge, or other civil authority, they must enter "civil". But either way, when the State issues the certificate, it will say "Certificate of Marriage". When you think about it, that makes a lot of sense.

However, through civil unions, If a same sex couple gets a civil union license, and take it to a minister for a religious service, they will be granted the title of Civil Union, even though their union was religious. But, if a straight couple gets a marriage license and take it to a judge, they will be granted the title of marriage, even though this union was completely civil. If marriage is a religious sacrament, as the opponents of marriage equality claim, how does that make any sense? My marriage to my husband took place in a church and was preformed by a minister, how is that civil?

It makes far more sense to simply include same sex couples in the definition of marriage. Than they would have the same ability to be married either civilly or religiously, that opposite sex couples currently enjoy. There are many religions in this state, and in this country, that recognize same sex marriage as good, and many clergymen, like myself, who would gladly preform same sex marriages. If marriage is a religious sacrament, than to deny same sex couples full and equal access to that sacrament that is granted to opposite sex couples, is a violation of their religious freedoms. No clergymen should be compelled to preform a same sex marriage, just as no clergymen is currently compelled to preform opposite sex marriages. But same sex, and opposite sex couples, and their chosen clergymen, should have equal freedom to make that choice together.

The final point that I will make is to remind you of the story of the President of the United States, Barack Obama. President Obama's parents engaged in an interracial marriage, at a time when such a marriage was still illegal in 18 states. What if his parents had been married in such a state and was told, "we do not want to taint the word marriage, by granting it to a couple such as yourselves, so we will call it a civil union." How would any of you have felt to say that to the parents of the President of the United States. If you wouldn't feel good about saying it to his parents, why would you feel good about saying the exact same thing to me. How do you think it makes me, and others like me feel to hear it said?

Separate but equal is segregation, plain and simple, no different than telling someone they can use water fountains, as long as they don't use the same ones that you do. People who supported these separate but equal ideas back then, are remembered very poorly by history today. 5 states have already granted full marriage rights to same sex couples, and it is only a matter of time before it is nation wide. It could take a few years, it could take 50, but when that day comes, I ask the members of this committee and this body, what side of history do you want to be remembered on? Please pass full marriage rights for same sex couples.

From: Kate Bryant-Greenwood [bryantgreenwood@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:25 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony In Support of SB232
Attachments: SB232 support testimony.doc

January 24, 2011

Testimony in support of SB232 (the following is also attached as "SB232 support testimony")

My name is Kate Bryant-Greenwood and I support SB232 allowing civil unions in the state of Hawai'i. Thank you to the Judiciary and Labor Committee for considering this bill. Every person in the state of Hawai'i should have the right to marry. Denying this fundamental right purely on the reasoning that marriage is a religious institution reserved solely for opposite sex couples is flawed. Since marriage certificates are issued by the state, everyone should have access to this, regardless of whether or not you have a religious affiliation. My husband and I were married here in Honolulu in 2008 and if there had been a civil unions option that conferred the same rights as a traditional marriage certificate we would have opted for the civil unions certificate.

I do not want to see our close family friends denied the right to marry simply because they are in a same-sex relationship. They are in loving, long-term, committed relationships that deserve to be recognized by the state of Hawai'i. I feel ashamed and embarrassed that they are unable to marry officially and gain the rights of a married couple as my husband and I have done. Our relationship is no better than theirs.

My husband and I have a brand new daughter that is one month old today. She is our first child and I am both proud and excited to raise her in our incredibly beautiful and diverse state in a way that I was raised. We would, however, very much like to raise her in a place that puts equal rights first by allowing people of the same sex to enter into state-sanctioned civil unions. Please consider SB232 carefully and mahalo for your support.

Kate Bryant-Greenwood

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:24 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: janetmgrace@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Grace
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: janetmgrace@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Civil Unions equals Same Sex Marriage and should not be tolerated as a law for the people of Hawaii. I believe this would create much confusion and chaos on many levels, primarily to our kids. I don't dislike homosexual people, but believe that traditional marriage must not be infringed upon.

Mahalo for your time.



1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • www.pphi.org • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

January 24, 2011

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii.

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions

Thank you for hearing this important bill and for the opportunity to testify in strong support of it. Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports SB 232 and the Civil Unions it creates. We encourage members of this committee to pass this bill and courageously stand up for equality in Hawaii.

At PPHI, we believe that the free and joyous expression of one's sexuality is central to being fully human. We also believe that all people are equal under the law and should therefore enjoy the same rights and protections provided by our constitution, no matter their race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Civil Unions are an important part of promoting that equality by ensuring that same sex couples receive the same protections afforded heterosexual couples in marriage.

Heterosexual married couples enjoy many protections in our state, including rights related to health care, insurance benefits, property rights and taxation. The benefits of marriage are experienced on a daily basis and protect spouses in times of worry. Counter to our state's constitution, committed same sex couples and their families are denied these rights. No person is served by this kind of discrimination. Recognizing the rights of same sex couples in no way detracts from marriage. Rather, creating Civil Unions promotes stable, healthy, and loving relationships and gives Hawaii the opportunity to protect all of our families.

Discrimination does not have a place in our state. We are fortunate to live in a state where many different peoples and cultures can not just coexist, but can work together to make Hawaii a unique and wonderful home. Therefore, we ask you to pass SB 232 creating Civil Unions and to promote the equality of all Hawaii's citizens. Thank you again for the opportunity to be heard in support of this bill.

Honolulu Health Center

1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-589-1149

Kailua Kona Health Center

75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

Kahului (Maui) Health Center

140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176
(A Maui United Way Agency)

Nate Burgoyne
Haleiwa, HI
Oppose SB232

“Civil unions” are a rewording of “same-sex marriage.”

The voters have spoken not to redefine marriage.

If you pass SB232, the people of this state will lose their trust in the value of their vote on critical issues such as this.

I can hear it now, “Well, we voted against same-sex marriage and the majority won but the government went ahead and found a way to work around our votes anyway. Clearly our votes don’t count and the loud minority wins anyway. I’m done voting.”

Please respect the votes of the people and oppose SB232.

Aloha,
Nate

January 24, 2011

Email to: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 25, 10:00am., Conference Room 016
(Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor)**

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: **SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions**

Honorable Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members,

The proposed SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions should not be a part of the legislative agenda. The people of Hawaii voted some years ago to limit the joining of one man and one woman as the sole institution of marriage. Civil union bill is an attempt to undermine the sanctity of marriage. This is a constitutional issue and should not be apart of the legislative process until the people have voted for other than the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman.

As a concerned citizen of Hawaii, I **strongly oppose SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions.**

Sincerely,
Lester Fukuda

Attention: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 AM

Conference Room 016

Subject: **OPPOSE SB232.**

Submitted by: Beverly Larranaga, 91-1010 Kelau St Kapolei Hi, 96707
Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and Committee
Members:

1. I OPPOSE SB232 because it undermines the institution of marriage and the stable structure of family.
2. I respectfully request you vote against SB232.

Beverly Larranaga

Dear members of the Senate,

The government should not stand in the way of love; instead, it should recognize it. A couple that has been together for twenty years should be recognized as such. If one is dying in the hospital, the other should be allowed to visit. If they are raising children together, that should be recognized. I have friends, coworkers, and family members who are gay--give them basic civil rights, please.

Thank you,

Michael Rollins

Zachary Giano

SB232

Committee: JDL

Room: 016

Hearing Date: 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

To the Committee:

My name is Zach. I am a 26 year old graduate student at Hawaii Pacific University, and will be graduating with my masters in May of this year. However, the is only half of my story. The other half? His name is Travis. We have been dating for a year and 4 months, and going strong. He is also in a masters program as well, and will become a mathematics teacher here in Hawaii when he also graduates in May. The year and 4 month journey we have had together has been a terrific yet essential path we both have shared together.

However, living in Hawaii inherently has some problems. Our relationship will only go as far as "boyfriends," because the state refuses to recognize any further type of relationship recognition. Opponents will say that a state certificate doesn't strengthen a relationship; however, they could not be more wrong. A certificate helps solidify a relationship (and others like ours) in an official way. It has the power to take a relationship to the next committed level. This little piece of paper can make a huge difference. Furthermore, it would grant us the much needed rights that our other heterosexual friends who are in relationships have. Simple things like filing jointly for tax purposes, healthcare partnerships, or being able to have hospital visitation rights go a long way. Honestly, the bottom line is that we both feel like second-class citizens here in Hawaii because we cannot enjoy the same rights as heterosexual couples.

Hear my plea: Please pass SB232. Please make Hawaii more equality friendly. Please be on the right side of history, and lastly, please make a difference.

Sincerely,

Zachary Giano



THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FR: Glenn Cannon, President of the Screen Actors Guild Hawaii Branch
Brenda Ching, Executive Director of the Screen Actors Guild Hawaii Branch

RE: **TESTIMONY FOR SB 232, RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Screen Actors Guild Hawaii Branch strongly supports SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions and urges the passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 232.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

2457 Lamaku Pl, Honolulu, HI 96816

email: info@pd-hawaii.com

tel: 808.371-9334

Tuesday January 25, 2011

Relating to Senate Bill 232
Testifying in Support of the Intent
On Behalf of
Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Senators Gabbard, Ihara, and Slom.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present testimony in **support of the intent of Senate Bill 232 Relating to Civil Unions**, which is identical to House Bill 444 Senate Draft 1. My name is Josh Frost and I am the Co-Chair of the Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i (PDH). As the name of our organization suggests, PDH is made up of progressive minded individuals who share, among other things, a strong belief in equal rights for everyone, regardless of age, gender, race, or sexual orientation.

Our aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends and relatives are being treated as second-class citizens. They are voters. They are taxpayers. They are soldiers in our military. They are teachers and lawyers and laborers. Our government expects the same from them as it does heterosexuals.

Since this issue was resurrected in Hawai'i in 2009, there have been great victories nationwide with regard to the GLBT community. Same-sex marriage became law in Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire and Washington D.C. Civil Unions became law in Nevada, Washington state, and Illinois. Federally, we've seen the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

Given these developments, there is certainly a trend nationwide to equalize rights, responsibilities, and protections for same-sex couples and those belonging to the GLBT community. In Hawai'i, this bill is an enormous step toward equality for our friends and families.

Despite what some opponents of Civil Unions may claim, allowing same-sex couples to enter into a Civil Union is not the same as marriage, nor does this allowance in anyway infringe on the religious beliefs of any person or group. Allowing same-sex couples to enter into a Civil Union does not detract from or lessen the sanctity or significance of marriage for opposite-sex couples.

Our gay friends and family members have a harder time obtaining health and life insurance for their partners and children. They pay more in taxes than we do. If any of them choose to adopt a child, they have a much harder time going through the process, plus that child has fewer rights than a child born of, or adopted by, an opposite-sex couple.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

2457 Lamaku Pl, Honolulu, HI 96816

email: info@pd-hawaii.com

tel: 808.371-9334

Simply put, this is not right. It's not fair.

While we support the intent of this House Bill 232, we do humbly request the inclusion of a number of amendments. Also introduced this session is Senate Bill 231, which also is Related to Civil Unions. Senate Bill 231 is the result of a combined effort of House and Senate members, the Governor's Office, Department of Health, the Attorney General, and the Civil Rights Commission. As House Bill 444 made its way through the legislature, there were a number of questions raised regarding implementation, taxation, employee benefits, and dissolution of a civil union; Senate Bill 231 answers these questions, as well as includes additional sections allowing for a smooth implementation of Civil Unions.

As amendments will strengthen the bill and minimize confusion going forward, we respectfully ask this committee to consider integrating language from Senate Bill 231 into this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,
Josh Frost
1418 Mokuna Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Justine Hura [justinehura@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:58 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: S.B. 232 Comments

Bill number: S.B. 232
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

Position: In Support

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

Please support S.B. 232 to extend benefits for committed same sex partners. This State a great one because of its acknowledgement and celebration of its diverse population. I support this bill that extends the protections to same-sex couples that choose to commit to the responsibilities of lifetime partnership. It may be ideologically uncomfortable for some in our community to see the passage of this bill and who only have an impersonal stake in it. However, it will make a positive and essential change to those who have a personal stake by virtue of their love for a same-sex partner. Please recommend the adoption of this bill.

Thank you,
Justine Hura
Wailuku, HI

From: Cheryl Toyofuku [healthjourney@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:57 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232 Testimony

Testimony from: Cheryl Toyofuku
Bill Number: SB 232 relating to Civil Unions
Committee: Senate Judiciary & Government Operations Committee
Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.
Hearing Location: Room 016

RE: **STRONG OPPOSITION TO CIVIL UNIONS BILL SB 232**

Dear Senator Hee and the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your service to Hawaii as legislators. Please vote against Civil Unions Bill SB 232 and do not allow it to leave your committee. 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 SB 232. Please seek to recognize the confusing and deceptive language that is being used in this bill. The people of Hawaii have a right to know about how SB 232 is 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 the bill 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 makes it clear to me that this bill 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 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 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.

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

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

From: Mrs Dozi [pacificrimconsulting@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:46 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 232

Chairman Hee, Vice Chairman Shimabukuro and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this subject and for listening objectively to your constituents. In an age where immediate self-gratification and an attitude of "if it feels good, do it" dominate much behavior, sometimes it is too easy to lose focus that comes with maturity and wisdom gained from experiencing life's consequences. Consequences have a way of demonstrating traditional wisdom and the benefits of restraint as codified in cultural mores. Moral standards have the effect of providing stability, consistency and strength to a community. Other cultures, much older than ours and still extant are solidified around principles that protect the foundational structure of their respective communities. Whether related to murder, thievery, fraud or licentiousness, laws provide protection against chaos, confusion and the demise of society itself. While there has been an energetic effort on behalf of a small portion of society to "dignify" a type of relationship that is illegal in at least 80 other global countries and has been a contributing factor to the disintegration of ancient empires, there is wisdom and benefit in simply saying, "No." Please consider the ramifications of acceding to the immediate demands of a petulant child, rather than fortifying oneself and remaining stalwart in not allowing that child to do something that you know would be harmful to him, as well as to the family as a whole. Please see this subject of a civil union relationship cast in the same way. Any measure that in any way attempts to give sanction to a relationship outside of the marriage of one man to one woman renders no benefit to society as a whole. Please vote "no" on SB 232. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Dozier

From: wilsond052 [wilsond052@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:51 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Regarding the potential of religious persecution as relating to SB 232

Dear Senators,

I wish to bring a concern to your attention in regards to the legislation that you are considering in regards to civil unions. As a concerned citizen I believe in standing up for the rights of all individuals to worship and speak freely and live their lives as is outlined in our constitution. My concern however has been with much of the recent zealous rhetoric in regards to this issue. I believe there to be not only a clash of cultures but a severe communication gap that has made having a rational discussion difficult. As a Christian and one who has taught the Bible for many years I find it disheartening that many churches and fellow Bible teachers are being accused of teaching bigotry from their pulpits just because they hold to a traditional view of the Bible. While I have read of some who have experienced this I myself have not run into this in any church I have attended in the past 35 years. Don't get me wrong I do believe it happens. People often misuse the scriptures to support things that aren't even taught from the Bible.

Here is the concern. There are those of us that hold a Traditional view of scripture and see the Bible as inspired by God and authoritative. Sometimes this is called having a high view of scripture. This means that these unchanging tenants of our faith especially in regards to sexual morals that we are to follow cannot be altered to fit the shifting values of the culture. We don't have the authority to change them since they are given by God. Not only this but we are also held accountable to follow these commandments in obedience to our God. We are instructed that we will have to give an account to God for words and actions after this life. We are taught if we obey God this is how we show love towards him. We are also taught that we cannot force these values on others who don't believe the same as we do. We are called to love and pray for everyone regardless if they are different than us or not. Jesus even taught to pray for those who persecute us. We are taught to share our faith with others that we meet and to live out our lives as a good example before them. I realize that we as Christians fall short sometimes at expressing the love that we should and when issues like this arise it is hard to balance grace and love with trying to defend our freedoms at the same time. One more point is the misunderstanding of the use of the words "the enemy". When Christians use this Term it refers to spiritual battle. We are taught that "The Enemy" is the devil. Again, yes there are those of us that believe in a literal Devil that we battle against in prayer. This spiritual battle we believe in is one that influences the thought processes of others. So when we say "The Enemy" we are not referring to a group of people but to spiritual forces that may influences the thought processes.

Here is the crux of the issue. there is the great divide between our worldviews. Those of us that hold to a traditional view of scripture believe that people can and do change their behavior as a result of letting God work in their lives. Those who had sex before marriage either get married or practice celibacy before marriage, and those who had multiple partners change and yes even those who lived a homosexual or a bisexual life can and do change. This is not to say that in becoming a Christian we believe that all inclinations or temptations simply just disappear but as the Spiritual life is embraced authentically there is a transformation that takes place. We believe that we each have temptations we struggle with some more common than others but we hold to the belief that through submission to God we are able to overcome these. The other worldview, what we might call the postmodern worldview, rather than holding to a set of moral principles that were written down 3500 years ago, see morals and values as something that evolves with society. The concept of sexual repression as the cause of the ills of society as taught by Freud has permeated the culture. The studies of Alfred Kinsey and the Kinsey scale in regards to homosexuality are believed by many even if they have never studied it and those who follow the Bible are sometimes seen as anachronistic, anti-science and not compatible with progressive society. So we have a clash of cultures here. I believe in tolerance. But Tolerance does not mean complete forfeit of our views. It simply means we tolerate or get along with each other. And agree to disagree with a mutual respect for the other persons rights. But this is not what I see going on in the name of tolerance. The establishment clause prevents the state from endorsing a religion. But what if the state makes laws that might set a president for condemning a religion or hindering free speech? If you are determined to go ahead and pass SB 232 I pray that you consider the ramifications of lifting up the civil rights of one group by possibly putting down the rights of another group because that is the trend that I see happening. There is a real concern among many Christians right now that we are being marginalized for the sake of one group trying to use legislation to force the culture to accept their lifestyle and the church has become their scapegoat. It seems that they believe the church is their enemy and standing in their way of a better life. Please believe me. We are not the enemy. And we do not all preach hate. Yes we have a very different interpretation of human sexuality that is based on the Bible. No we do not believe that homosexuality is an immutable trait but is one of many sexual expressions that have been practiced for thousands of years that is forbidden for Christians to engage in. Yes we do acknowledge there are many environmental and psychological factors involved and that there is ongoing research in this field but no scientific

consensus has been reached. But that does not mean we don't have compassion or love or are bigoted or ignorant. We are not the main source of this bigotry or bullying that gays experience. The truth is, believe it or not, there are millions of people in this country that have never opened a Bible listened to a sermon or even walked into a church that have a negative reaction to the idea of gay marriage or homosexuality. And anybody who claims they are using the Bible to justify hating on another group of people hasn't read the whole thing and is taking it out of context. . If anybody can identify with being different it is somebody who tries to actually live out a Traditional view of scripture in this culture. Please hear my heart. We don't want to force our religion on anybody but we are feeling that this particular view of human sexuality is being forced on us and that our ability to speak freely in our culture is becoming less and less. There is enough religious persecution going on around the world. Our people are being killed by extremist in other countries constantly, we lose 171,000 people to martyrdom each year. In our own country we have to form organizations of Christian lawyers just to defend our basic rights. So yes we do know what it is like to be different. Though it is not a direct comparison I am trying to say. Lets protect each other without making laws that will potentially denigrate the other. Please take your time. Don't just rush this through. Please consider an alternative to Civil Unions. It would almost be better if the state just stopped issuing marriage licenses all together and let people do their ceremonies at their church or the place of their choice.

David Wilson

Ewa Beach

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:47 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Guzzofamily@Hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Regina Guzzo
Organization: Individual
Address: 2359A Liliha st. Honolulu
Phone: 808-595-5210
E-mail: Guzzofamily@Hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

The whole purpose of marriage, which was designed by God, was for procreation. Since people of the same sex are unable to procreate why should they receive those rights? They are the ones that knowingly chose to live that lifestyle. They knew when they chose to live that way that these rights were not available to them, and yet they still chose to live that way. Why should we change the law for them? That would be like drug dealers asking for it to become legal for them to sell illegal drugs since it is a "business". Or like allowing illegal immigrants to become citizens because they are already in the U.S.! Homosexuality is a sin. Whether or not the people were born with the urge to be attracted to the same sex doesn't mean you act on that urge. If someone has the urge to kill, should they act on it and then say "I was born this way"? No! We should not be rewarding people for their sins! We should be following what our founding fathers followed when they wrote the constitution. The majority of our founding fathers were ministers of the Christian faith. The rights they saw fit to give were for a married couple, not a "civil union" couple. The definition of marriage is "the social institution under which a MAN AND a WOMAN establish their decision to live as husband and wife by legal commitments & RELIGIOUS ceremonies." Why should we change the law to accommodate a select few. Statistics show that approximately 10% of the nation is homosexual. Now if you narrow it down to the Hawaiian islands you figure about 10% of the people in Hawaii are homosexual. That leaves 90% of the state that is not. Now even if my figures off by a little bit, it is not enough that we should change the law for them. They knowingly chose this lifestyle. Therefore they knew they would not have those rights available. It was the choice they made. You can't chose to do something wrong and then expect everyone to change the rules just because you don't like them. More than half of our state is married couples. We should follow the majority, not the minority.

From: Andrew Gerakas [deaconandy@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:50 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony SB232 Relating to Civil Unions

Testimony by Dcn. Andrew J. Gerakas, D.Min.
Judiciary and Labor Committee on
SB232 Relating to Civil Unions
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10: a.m.
Conference Room 016

Homosexual Marriage and Equal Rights

I am Dcn. Andy Gerakas. I am a life long, card carrying Democrat, and a member of the HGEA. I served as the deputy director of EPCA, the first economic development organization in the Territory of Hawaii, and in economic development for the U.N. and the State of Hawaii.

Since 1996, forty-five states have passed laws or constitutional amendments restricting marriage to one man and one woman. They have also prohibited recognition of any out-of-state same-sex marriages. The states have enacted these laws in response to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). DOMA permits each state to determine marriage laws within its jurisdiction, reflecting the will of its citizens. Homosexual advocates have challenged DOMA, Proposition 8, the constitutional amendment defining marriage in California, and Hawaii's marriage statute.

The chief strategy of same-sex marriage advocates is to argue that they are being denied their civil rights based on sexual orientation. They have evoked the authentic struggle of black citizens seeking equal civil rights. They point to laws which prohibited mixed marriage as the equivalent of prohibiting homosexual marriage. Many black leaders have denounced this as a specious argument. Homosexually inclined persons have not been segregated, relegated to the back of the bus, lynched, denied the vote, impoverished, and routinely discriminated against, as have been our black brothers and sisters. Some 70% of blacks in California and 73% of blacks in Florida voted for constitutional amendments defining marriage as between one man and one woman, a greater number than other groups. No homosexual person is denied the right to vote, to hold a job, to pursue an education, to voice an opinion, or any other right guaranteed in the constitution. U. S. Laws against homosexual co-habitation have long ago been eliminated.

The strategy by homosexual proponents in Hawaii is to lift the statute on marriage, place it in a bill, and call it a civil union. Such legislation, which has passed both houses in the past, gives homosexual couples the exact benefits and legal standing as traditional marriage but is called a civil union. Once this is done the next step is to petition the courts with the argument that since the civil unions legislation has the same legality and benefits as marriage it is in violation of equal rights not to call it what it is, "marriage." This is exactly what happened in Connecticut, within five years, and New Hampshire, within two years. In Vermont it was the legislature that changed the description from civil unions to same-sex marriage within nine years. In New Jersey domestic partnerships were replaced by civil unions within two years and the effort now is to pass legislation to name the same-sex unions as "marriage."

Proponents of same-sex unions argue that they are deprived of equality because the traditional concept of marriage is based on religious beliefs, and if religious norms are set aside there is no non-religious impediment to marriage. The fact is that the union between one man and one woman predates any political system or government. Redefining marriage so as to equalize the union between same-sex couples to heterosexual couples would legally deprive traditional married couples the dignity of their relationship. The sanctity of marriage would lose its sanctity. The new meaning would be that sex has no meaning beyond that of mere pleasure. No life can come from the homosexual act. Further, if same-sex marriage, or its equivalent, becomes law, heterosexual parents will be deprived

of the right to opt their children out of public school classes that would teach the equality of same-sex and heterosexual relationships. There would be a radical redefinition of a basic tenant of life as humankind has known it.

Many benefits of marriage can be achieved by non-married persons through other legal instruments. Homosexuals are free to name their partners as medical surrogates and beneficiaries in their wills. The homosexual community and its supporters turn down all offers to discuss adding benefits they may be deprived of to Hawaii's Reciprocal Beneficiaries law. They insist on exact equality with marriage.

If SB 232 becomes law there is little question that the next step will be to petition the courts to call it marriage, as happened in Connecticut, New Hampshire and California. The Hawaii constitutional amendment giving the legislature the power to define marriage as between one man and one woman will not prevent this. SB 232 equates civil unions with marriage, and the next step will be to legally call it what it is, marriage. The Judiciary Committee should discern this strategy and table SB232.

January 24, 2011

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee Chair

Re: Opposing SB 232

Most Honorable Senators,

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii. It is a difficult and arduous task evaluating and making decisions on the many propositions and bills that come up every session and having to protect the interests of the people of Hawaii.

And it is to you that we look to protect the well-being of not only our generation but the generations to come in our community. While we are the "Aloha" state and made up of many cultures in our community, one thing we all have in common is a desire to preserve the integrity of family, our "O`hana" and this Senate bill SB 232, while couched in terms of preserving marriage and not redefining it, actually seeks the exact opposite. Marriage is the foundation of the family unit and to adulterate that foundation, like adulterating the composition of the concrete foundation of a home, puts the safety of the home at serious risk. The language of the bill is to put civil unions as equal to marriage and the ultimate goal is to re-define marriage as state law to allow same-sex marriage in Hawaii. That has been the strategy used by outside groups in other states that have allowed civil unions and that is the strategy being employed here. There is already a mechanism in place to allow for the health care benefits and other social needs being cited in support of civil unions; the Reciprocal Beneficiary Act allows for all to receive benefits and could be expanded to resolve any deficiencies without attacking the foundation of the traditional family unit. But that has been ignored because that does not fit the agenda of those who lobby for this bill.

We ask you to consider all that is at stake, the serious repercussions of opening the door to the floodgate of same-sex marriage in our state and oppose SB232.

Mahalo for your kind consideration of this testimony,

Sincerely,

Kent Kitagawa
98-1440A Koahehe Street
Pearl Ctiy, HI 96782
Phone: 456-8985

From: Mark Kadota [mfk@markkadota.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Bill # SB232

Bill # SB232

I have lived in Hawaii most of my life. I love the culture, the land and the elements. I believe by passing civil unions we perpetuate the aloha spirit. It is a way of making our communities whole and less fragmented. Life in Hawaii is special and our ways unique. I feel it is important to make a positive example of what a culture can be.

On another note we can help our economy by including all people here to our Islands.

me ke aloha,

Mark Kadota

Testimony in Support Of SB 232

TO:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

HEARING:

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M to completion
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

FROM:

The Revs. Kate Lewis and Pat Hendrickson
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Kailua, HI

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS:

Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. Takes effect 1/1/2012.

Dear Committee Members,

As religious leaders we write to you in support of SB 232 with the message that this is a civil issue, not a religious one. It is clear that to pass legislation affirming Civil Unions is simply to **extend basic civil rights to all citizens of our state**. As you know, there are over 1,100 rights and responsibilities that are kept from those who do not wish to lie about who they are.

Please do not be swayed by those who suggest either that it is the government's duty to weigh in on the religious sacrament of marriage, or that this bill would force religious institutions into performing rituals they don't wish to be a part of or will threaten free speech.

As you know, especially among younger generations, there is wide support for civil unions and our hope is that you will **stand with us in favor of equal rights for all** and **against allowing churches to dictate legislation**. Please have the courage to do the right thing.

Many thanks for your dedicated service and commitment to justice,

The Rev. Pat Hendrickson
The Rev. Kate Lewis

From: Peedeefish@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:38 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: support senate bill 232

I am sending this e-mail in support of Senate Bill 232. My partner and I are both Episcopal Church clergy. We are well aware that many people of faith differ with our interpretation of the Gospel as instruments of inclusion rather exclusion. And I support their right to hold their own religious views. However, what we are talking about here are not religious rights but the right of every citizen in this country to enjoy the same privileges under the law.

We are impacted in so many ways, both on the state and federal level. Most of all, we live in constant fear of what it could mean if our partner gets sick or dies. We must always fill out "special" forms to ensure that we will be treated as spouses and often these forms are ignored. Civil unions are not a threat to anyone's marriage. We need to educate people to the difference between a wedding blessed by the church, and two people(of any sex) entering into a contract that clearly spells out rights and responsibilities under the law.

Please support this bill which will guarantee equality under the law for all citizens. Thank You.

The Rev. Pat Hendrickson
Deacon, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
(805) 495-0174 - home
(808) 237-9300 - cell

1/24/11

To whom it may concern:

When over 222,724 thousand people voted on election day equality spoke loud and clear. Duke Aiona made it clear that he would veto a Civil Unions bill and Governor Neil made it clear that he would sign such a bill into law. The Voters were fully aware of that! I think society is much smarter and more educated now days and I believe that's why we are headed in the direction we are in.

People say being gay is a choice. Well, ask yourself can you choose to be gay and happy? If the answer is yes then I'm pretty sure that you are gay but closeted. The true fact is that people who are gay or lesbian are born that way. Close minded people need to accept that all people are born differently and given unique gifts.

At the age of about 8 years old I knew that I was different. Churches made me feel less then and that I shouldn't exists. As a young man my self esteem went really low and I headed in the wrong direction in life. In my youth years I went in and out of youth correctional facilities. By the age of 18 years old I ended up in prison for over five years for robbery. If only I had the confidence to make better choices and if only churches made me feel like I was a Human being I think like myself and many other youth out there would have the self esteem to head in the right direction. Many young gay teens end up taking their own lives and I blame the teaching of hatred in churches for that. Thankfully I'm here to share my story today. I speak on behalf of all of those young gay men and women who took their own lives or were killed because of their sexual orientation. I am a warrior because today I can stand up to hateful churches and speak on our behalf without being intimidated. Today I am a successful Business owner. I thank my Family and Friends for their love and support.

Sincerely,

Aaron Escobido-Ortiz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: aaronescobido@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: 1.docx

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Aaron Escobido-Ortiz
Organization: Individual
Address: Pakaweli Kapolei, Hi
Phone: 808-499-9231
E-mail: aaronescobido@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

EQUALITY HAWAII

Tuesday January 25, 2011

Testifying in Support of the Intent of SB232
On Behalf of Equality Hawaii

My name is Valerie Smith, and I write with Alan Spector, my fellow co-chair of Equality Hawai'i, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization. We enthusiastically support the intent of SB232 and extend a gracious aloha to Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Senators Ihara, Gabbard, and Slom. We respectfully recommend, however, that select contents of SB321 be integrated into the body of this bill.

In Tuesday's forum, we understand the importance of discussion and debate as part of the democratic process and appreciate the participation of those with opposing viewpoints. On this day, you may hear people ask that you deny same-sex couples and their families rights and protections, a position that is patently discriminatory.

SB 232 does not redefine marriage. It does not deny any rights or privileges to any married person. Instead, it proposes a separate legal status called "civil union" to extend those same rights, benefits, protections, and obligations to same-sex couples and their children. Anything less would preserve legal vulnerabilities that undermine the cohesion of same-sex families.

Opponents say that it is in the best interest of the state to keep couples together -- to ensure that families have access to the tools and resources to better care for each other, including health insurance for a spouse or child, pension benefits in the event of a spouse's death, and equal parenting obligations. We agree. SB 232 will allow same-sex couples access to these same tools, enabling them to better care for each other and their children.

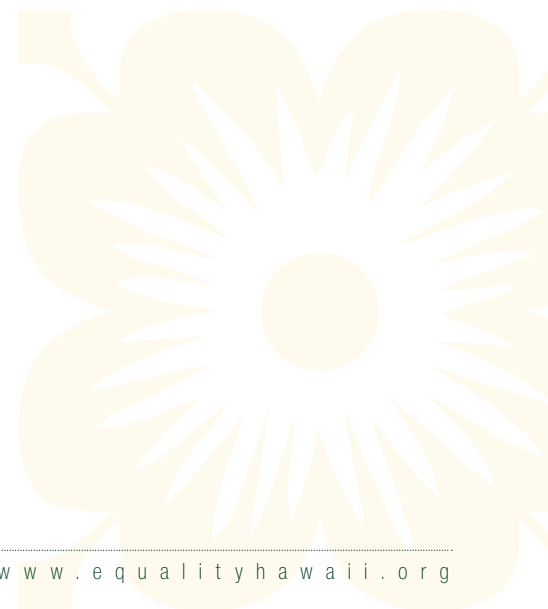
We were all raised to believe we could achieve anything, given the opportunity. This proposition has always been based on constitutional guarantees of equal treatment under the law for all. When my own family came to this country from Saigon in the midst of a war, we knew we could aspire to success, because, regardless of our place of origin, all American citizens are entitled to equal opportunity. Same-sex couples are no different.

Since HB444 was introduced in January 2009, significant strides have been made in other jurisdictions toward achieving same-sex equality: Washington, Nevada, Illinois, Vermont, New Hampshire, Iowa, and the District of Columbia have all enacted legislation to provide same-sex couples equal treatment under the law. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it

bends toward justice.” We hope to see this arc bend toward civil unions and take root in our state.

In closing, as previously stated, we support the intent of SB232, which is identical to last year's HB444 SD 1. During the HB444 debates, questions were raised about implementation, taxation, employee benefits, and termination of civil unions. As a result, selected member of the House and Senate, Governor's Office, Attorney General, and Director of Health have collaborated on an updated bill, SB231, based on HB444 SD1, which answers these questions and includes additional sections to allow for a smooth implementation of civil unions. We respectfully ask you to consider integrating language from SB231 into SB232. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,
Valerie Smith & Alan Spector
Co-Chairs
Equality Hawaii



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:34 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: alan@equalityhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: EHTestimony2011SenateJDL.pdf

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Alan Spector & Valerie Smith
Organization: Equality Hawaii
Address: Post Office Box 11444 Honolulu, HI 96828
Phone: 808-673-5222
E-mail: alan@equalityhawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

From: Mark Levin [levin@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:33 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony of Professor Mark A. Levin in strong support of SB232, Relating to Civil Unions

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**RE: Committee Hearing on SB232, scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00a.m.
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**

Testimony of Professor Mark A. Levin in strong support of SB232, Relating to Civil Unions

Hawai'i State Legislature, Senate Judiciary Committee, January 25, 2011

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for scheduling today's hearing.

I am one of two faculty advisers for the Lambda Law Student Organization at the William S. Richardson School of Law, a student organization with brings together students of diverse sexual orientation in a shared mission of fostering communication regarding issues relating to persons of diverse sexual orientation and bringing greater awareness to the Law School community concerning these issues.

I am writing in strong support of SB232.

Same-sex couples in "reciprocal beneficiary relationships" suffer from disparate treatment under approximately 500 Hawai'i statutes. This is surely unfair, unnecessary, and unwise. Unequal treatment continues to be an affront to notions of fairness, inclusion, and personal dignity that are important to our collective sense of community.

As a law professor, I am especially sensitive to the burdens of inequality in our society imposed upon my students. As we teach the compelling value of equality in the classroom, it is tragically ironic that many of the future lawyers in our school can not themselves enjoy equal treatment under the laws of this state. This injustice permeates through the law school community and into the educational experiences of all of our students.

This is not a matter only for the benefit of the gay and lesbian community. As Dr. King said so eloquently in his Letter from Birmingham Jail: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Aloha and thank you for your consideration.

Mark A. Levin

(For identification purposes only)

Associate Professor and Faculty Adviser, Lambda Law Student Organization)

The William S. Richardson School of Law

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2515 Dole St., Honolulu, HI 96822

Tel: 1-808-956-3302

Opinions presented here are personal views and not the official views of the University of Hawai'i or any other organization or entity.

From: lucy witeck [lkwiteck@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony

January 24, 2011

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro,
and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. on this important measure granting equal rights and legal recognition of civil unions. We may not be able to attend but we are in strong support of SB 232 extending the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities to partners in civil unions as are given to married couples.

Passage of this measure by your committee and by both houses of the Hawaii legislature will advance the cause of human rights and be a signal to other states and communities that they consider doing the same if they have not already acted to ensure equality of treatment. It will also be to Hawaii's credit to grant and guarantee equal rights for all.

We are also hoping that our brother may then be able to visit Hawaii with his partner and have their longstanding relationship given the legal recognition it warrants.

Aloha, and thank you!

Lucy and John Witeck
2252 Puna Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
(Ph. 347-3842)

From: Keola Akana [keolabear@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:26 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Senate Bill 232

Senator Clayton Hee
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Re: In Support of Senate Bill 232

Aloha Senator Clayton Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee Members,

Mahalo for accepting testimony for SB 232. My testimony is in support of SB 232. SB 232 seeks to provide equality, justice and fairness for Hawai'i's gay and lesbian families. These sensible qualities are what a just society provides all of its citizens and should be embodied in our Aloha State. Please pass SB 232.

Aloha,

Keola Akana
449 Kawaihae Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

From: Vernadette Gonzalez [vernadette24@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:27 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In support of SB 232
Attachments: Testimony in Support of SB 232.docx

Please consider the attached submitted testimony.
Thank you,
Vernadette Gonzalez

Testimony in Support of SB 232

Thank you to the committee for their time.

I am writing to support civil unions in Hawai'i. As a straight, married citizen of the United States, I take for granted that my partnership with my spouse and my rights to have economic coverage under his insurance policies, and our ability to raise a family are protected by the state. I am saddened that these same rights are continually denied my fellow citizens and human beings.

In my everyday life as a professor, I continually mentor gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer students who feel the pain of bullying and living in the closet. This debate in Hawai'i is another way that their full humanity is deferred. The state should protect the rights of two people to make a commitment to each other, and recognize that this is an important step toward full citizenship status for all of Hawai'i's residents.

In my role as a mother of two children, I feel that this a morally and socially just position. Gay or straight, I would want my children to have equal status as their peers as they grow up in this world.

Vernadette Gonzalez

From: Erica Melamed [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:25 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Civil Unions

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB232, a civil unions bill similar to HB444.

All families should be treated equal under state law and I hope to see the passage of this bill shortly.

Kindest Regards,

Erica Melamed
Coral Springs, FL

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions. To respond, email responses@change.org and include a link to this petition.



From: NORMA N DESAEGHER [desaegher@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:58 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Equal Rights - Civil Unions
Attachments: --static--liam_party_bottomright.jpg

To Whom It May Concern:

For many of us, we were raised in small towns. On Kauai, we were very conservative and the gay population was hidden in the shadows; not to be dealt with. So I grew up as a homophobic young adult.

Fortunately my husband, a retired Colonel who served in the U.S. Army Chaplaincy encouraged me to attend a church workshop on Open and Affirming for the Gay population. I vehemently argued against wasting my time listening to a bunch of "wierdos".

Today, those words bring tears to my eyes. I did reluctantly attend the workshop, and there God revealed that all his children are His creation. The years of homophobia and judgmental attitudes have disappeared. I know many professionals who are gay and find them to be in the top socio-economic strata of society. They are good people, ethical, hardworking and committed to being good citizens.

Our U.S. Constitution declares that "all men are created equal".

Therefore, if God and our Constitution declare all people equal, let our Legislative body do likewise. It is my hope that you, as the elected body, will look upon this resolution and vote in favor of accepting civil unions.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Norma Nomura DeSaegher
91-1074 Aipoola St.
Ewa Beach, Hi



From: Cory (Martha) Harden [mh@interpac.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 8:32 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: support SB 232 civil unions Judiciary 1-25-11 10 AM rm 016

Support
Bill number: S.B. 232
Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.
Room number: Room 016

Dear Legislators,
Please support civil unions! It's WAY past time to be fair to everyone!
mahalo,

Cory Harden
PO Box 10265
Hilo, Hawai'i 96721
mh@interpac.net
808-968-8965

January 22, 2011

Relating to SB232

Testifying in Support

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee & State of Hawaii :

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Malia Ribeiro and I am here to express my support for SB232 - Civil Unions. I believe that all people should be treated equally under the law and this is something required by our Constitution.

Although SB232 extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union it is not the same as marriage. Many people against gay marriage argue that the people in Hawaii already spoke over 10 years ago. That was a long time ago and the bill the people of Hawaii voted against was not a civil unions bill it was a same sex marriage bill and there is a difference. This bill is about civil rights and not about the definition of marriage between a man and a woman. The testimony has been overwhelmingly in support of this bill and I hope that the majority of constituents' voices will be represented.

The issue of equal treatment for same-sex couples is the civil rights issue of this generation. Equality is a simple concept yet sadly has been out of reach to so many. I ask that you support SB232 and appreciate your careful consideration.

Mahalo,

Malia Ribeiro
3233 Huelani Drive
Honolulu HI 96822

From: Malia Ribeiro [malia.ribeiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:12 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Support SB232
Attachments: Testimony for SB232.doc

Submitted testimony in Support of bill number (SB232), hearing date and time (January 25, 10 am).
Please See Attached Letter of Support. Mahalo, Malia Ribeiro

From: Phillip M. Arnold [arnoldp003@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:12 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Civil Unions SBS 232 Jan 25, 2011, 10:00 am, Conf Rm 016 State Capitol

Aloha Committee members on The Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Phillip M. Arnold and I want to thank you for bringing SBS 232 to your committee hearing for consideration.

I am in favor of passage for SBS 232 because it is the right thing to do. Most importantly, it provides equal rights for all of Hawaii citizens and thus removes second class citizenry forever.

Mahalo Phillip M. Arnold

Re: In support of SB232

Dear Members of this Committee,

Thank you for your consideration and time. My name is Naomi Abraham, and this is my testimony in support of SB232 as related to Civil unions.

Born and raised in these islands, I have lived openly as a gay women along with my partner of 33 years. The first of those 33 years began as students in middle school. Although our Christian values opposed our relationship, our "hearts" did our bidding for us. We fell in love as people do and because of it we were ridiculed and harassed by our peers and teachers. For 33 years we have struggled with acceptance, identity, respect and dignity not only from our peers but also from our families, our communities and society as a whole. It isn't a lifestyle or a life that anyone would want to choose for themselves unless they welcomed a life of struggle, ridicule, pain and unfairness. To support SB232 will not only solidify the issue of civil union marriages, but for me personally will openly say; "I'm a human being too and your words and your statements hurt, but I'll be okay, cause I have a place in the eyes of the law", and that I have the right to be happy with whom I have chosen to spend my life with and all that I accomplish in my lifetime will be hers too. And that I have the right to the freedoms as you do. No more, and no less. This is what it would mean to me. More than most. More than most can imagine. More than I can hope for in my lifetime is to live without fear of oppression or retribution. And that when my life ends, I don't have to worry that my assets will be divided amongst my kin that disapproves of my life choices and not my life-partner with whom a life I've built.

I don't want to seek to get married in a church or institution that does not honor my views and values as a free thinking Christian. All that I'm simply asking for is equality for myself and my life-partner to be acknowledged and afforded the same rights and equal protections under the laws of legal marriages in the State of Hawaii. by supporting SB232. Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Naomi P. Abraham
1185 Olomea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

From: Abraham, Naomi (US - Honolulu) [nabraham@deloitte.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:05 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Attachments: In support of SB232.wps
Importance: High

Please accept my testimony in support of SB232 as related to Civil unions.

Thanks for your time & consideration,

Naomi P. Abraham

Records Administrator | Deloitte Services LP
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1200, Honolulu, HI 96813 USA
Direct: +1 808 543 0740 | Main: +1 808 543 0700
Direct Fax: +1 866 791 3268 | Main Fax: +1 808 526 0225
nabraham@deloitte.com | www.deloitte.com

Please consider the environment before printing

This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message.

Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited. [v.E.1]

I have lived in Hawai 'i for 35 years; my son and daughter were born and raised here. One of the many attractive features of Hawai 'i is it's inclusive society and it's acceptance of ethnic and cultural differences. The passage of the marriage amendment restricting marriage to heterosexual couples made it clear that the aloha my family had experienced was not extended to our gay and lesbian friends. Small things, such as being able to designate a domestic partner for State retirement benefits, help, but equality as fellow citizens of Hawai 'i is still being denied to a significant proportion of our population. This, in my opinion, is morally and philosophically wrong.

While the establishment of civil unions does not erase the discrimination now built into Hawai 'i's constitution, it is at least a step in the right direction. I strongly support SB232 creating civil unions in Hawai 'i.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:02 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: haig@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: testimony.rtf

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John H. Haig
Organization: Individual
Address: 3243 Beaumont Woods Place Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: (808) 348-3093
E-mail: haig@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

From: trgrealty@gmail.com on behalf of Kip Smith [kipsmith@shaw.ca]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 11:00 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Tyson Fralick
Subject: In support of Gay Civil Unions

As my partner has just moved over to Hawaii, yes he is a US citizen, we are married here in BC, Canada and i look forward to being with him there full time soon....

He is also now working full time at Nordstroms and we are both very good working and business people and would certainly add to the state of Hawaii.

We look forward to Hawaii moving forward in civil unions and gay marriages.

Thank you

Kip Smith
The Residential Group Realty
101-1965 West 4th Ave
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6J 1M8
www.propertiesforsaleinvancouver.com
www.vancouverdowntownrentals.com
Office (604) 629-6100
Mobile (604) 818-5308
Fax (604) 682-5378

This email may contain confidential/privileged information that is only for the intended recipient. Distribution or copying of this email by anyone other than the intended addressee is prohibited. If you have received this in error, please notify us immediately and permanently destroy this email and all copies of it. Internet email is not private, secure, or reliable.

Written Statement of
DANIEL KWAI LEUNG CHUN
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in STRONG SUPPORT of
SB 232
RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:

My name is Daniel K.L. Chun and I was born in Honolulu, O'ahu and raised in Mililani. I currently reside in Honolulu and formerly worked for the Lingle-Aiona Administration for the last seven years. I humbly ask for your vote in FAVOR of SB 232 and thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of this very important bill.

I don't want to take your time reiterating all of the economic, social and political reasons why I support this bill, as I know you have heard from both sides and are acutely aware of all of the major points—both for and against. I also have never viewed this bill as a religious issue, or one that should pit liberals vs. conservatives or Democrats vs. Republicans. This is an issue of equality and “leveling the playing field” for all of Hawai'i's citizens to realize economic justice, fairness and the pursuit of happiness. It will allow all families in Hawai'i to be able to protect and care for one another under state law—I believe it is good public policy and encourages strong, stable family structures, which support and promote a thriving community.

I have been in a long-term relationship with my partner for nearly seven years. His name is Maika'i Tubbs and he and I are both local boys, born and raised in the islands and would like to call Hawai'i home for the rest of our lives. We are both good people—we contribute to society in meaningful ways through our professions (he works for the Honolulu Academy of Arts as the coordinator of their family programs and is also a successful Native Hawaiian contemporary artist who has been recognized by the HSFCA on numerous occasions for his work) and try to give back as much as we can to support our community through volunteer work, donating to local charities and even celebrated two of Maika'i's birthdays at the Next Step Shelter in Kaka'ako so that we could share a meal, our friends and families, and our many blessings, with the residents there.

As mentioned, I was previously with the Governor's Office and worked hard to support our state as best I could. Knowing that our laws would acknowledge my relationship with Maika'i, as well as offer us the protections and obligations of a civil union, would mean so much to us. I am not asking to receive special treatment or demand that any religion give us their blessings—I am simply asking that our government, which is supposed to serve and protect ALL people, allow me the same rights that my heterosexual counterparts have. I am just asking for the option to have my relationship legally recognized in the eyes of the state.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue. I appreciate your service to our community and everything you do for the State of Hawai'i. I look forward to a favorable outcome, and once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 232.

Mahalo.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2011

January 25th, 2011

10:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NUMBER 232, RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS
TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Halley Hobson. I am a 17-year-old resident of Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I am NOT in support of this bill. In passing this bill to allow homosexual marriage, I believe it will actually limit many others in their freedom of speech and faiths.

For many years the community of homosexual activists has claimed that they do not have equal rights in this country because they are not able to marry. I believe that they are wrong and that enacting SB232 bill will actually only be placing a label on such unions that is not in our constitution. This is wrong. Marriage is between only a man and a woman.

If SB232 bill is enacted, traditional and true marriage will be put on the back burner as old and outdated instead of right and pure.

Currently, many homosexual unions already have the benefits of a married couple (man and woman) such as insurance so why do they need the label of marriage?

They want the label of marriage to gain more benefits but most important to legitimize the idea that homosexuality is normal and an acceptable lifestyle, which it is not.

There are many other disadvantages to SB232 bill as well.

It will make a statement that the voice of Hawaii's people and their beliefs are not important.

This idea of civil union has been voted upon by the people and was put down 11 years ago.

Next it will limit and constrain the freedoms of those who do not agree with homosexual unions. For if these people do something to exercise their freedom of speech it will be called a hate crime and Hawaii will have succeeded in violating The United States' 1st Amendment rights.

Then SB232 will result in educating young ones regarding homosexuality as acceptable and that if you like someone that is the same sex the teacher will encourage you and say that it is okay because the law says so. This will encourage promiscuity and STDs.

But what about the families who do not think this is okay and want to pull their children out of school? The parents who have to keep up with 2 or 3 jobs, who have money problems and are on welfare, really want the best for their children but won't have time to home school them. Must they have to suffer because a loud minority got their way?

SB232 will not strengthen our families but instead confuse and cause chaos in many homes.

I thank the committee for taking the time to consider my testimony on this important issue, and I know that by not passing this bill, the people of Hawaii will benefit. Please vote NO on this issue. Thank you.



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

SB232
JDL
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:10 a.m.
Room 016

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

January 24, 2011

Re: SB232 — Relating to Civil Unions

In Support

Civil unions would be beneficial not only to same-sex couples but to seniors of opposite sex who live together but for one reason or another do not marry. For seniors of any gender mix, the ability to be responsible for one another and be able to make critical decisions is important, according to our members.

We also respect the right of individuals to hold their own beliefs, but cannot support the imposition of those beliefs on others. Thus, religious arguments should not bear weight in the decisionmaking process for this bill.

Kokua Council believes in civil rights and equality for couples through civil unions and has strongly supported similar bills in prior years. We think the time to enact the provisions of this bill into law are upon us, and urge the 2011 Legislature to pass this bill as expeditiously as possible.

Larry Geller

Larry Geller
President, Kokua Council

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council seeks to empower seniors and other concerned citizens to be effective advocates in shaping the future and well-being of our community, with particular attention to those needing help in advocating for themselves. "We embrace diversity and extend a special invitation to any senior or intergenerational minded individual interested in advocating for these important issues in Hawaii."

Via E-mail: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Room number: Room 016

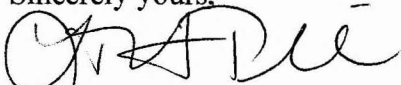
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of S.B. 232

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in strong support of S.B. 232, Relating to Civil Unions. Although I believe that ultimate equality cannot be attained until the Legislature permits the right to marry, I believe that S.B. 232 is a significant step in the right direction. This is about equal rights for all of Hawaii's people. I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois Perrin", written in a cursive style.

Lois Perrin

From: HRHSF [hrhsf@me.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:50 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hector R. Hoyos & Partner, Grant W. Larson In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY- SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

I, HECTOR R. HOYOS JR. THANK YOU FOR HEARING MY TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL UNIONS BILL SB232

I Also Want To Thank, Senator Clayton Hee, Chair & Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair For Hearing My Words Today.

I hope something that I say in this testimony gets to the heart of me and my partners issues and how much. The last few years living in Hawaii has affected our life's and our relationship because, our " Reciprocal Beneficiary " that we have had since 2005. Has done nothing to help me and him at critical event's that have happened to us in last few years. If me and Grant would have had full equal rights under state law. We would not being going thru a lot of set backs that we both have been thru. #1 Health Insurances have dropped both of our coverages with no re-coarse for continuing coverage under new carrier or even take "Cobra", which does not accept partners or people who are not married. "Cobra" & "United Health" cut us off saying simply because the state does not see you we do not have to cover you. Dental could be a huge saving cost for us if we could apply together. 1 of us works right now full time then as many extra hours he can get. #2 I was released from my very well earned job of Front Trainer for a huge newer food chain off the newer Lewer's street in Waikiki. I was retaliated against and harassed for being openly gay, told to keep my gayness back or I will have no future in the company regardless of how fabulous I was at my job. You have to understand being gay is not a "Gig" me being in love and with the same wonderful person for 12 years and not being accepted or able to be together,have a union is so sad and unreal to us. This would have made a huge difference in how the company treated the investigation and many other facets of my civil rights being taking away from me. I because my partner and close friends kept on me. Filed with Civil Rights Dept. Of Hawaii... Being together and faithfully, had no meaning there at Civil Rights Dept. it was kind of shocking and made me realize right then and there. It will always be an uphill battle for me for us. I got thru the Decision faze of them giving me permission to sue letter as did the EEOC. it took almost 2 years to get any word from them, no contact felt so cold and i'm the victim. I would have rather kept case with the dept. but,. They made me even feel gay, different, like I shouldn't even really be there. I'm still fighting this huge civil rights battle with the word gay all over it. A company taking full advantage of the fact us "LGBT" folks and couples have no state rights...

My hole life like most has been fitting in and educating myself after not such a great childhood with abuses from the church when I was young, the school system, Doctors, Therapist and everyone Religious telling me my

hole life. Somethings wrong or could be wrong with me. While they abused me and used me and tour my soul and many gay friends of mine hearts out for all to see and use in the public. The love I have for my parents and what they did to raise me after and during such hells was amazing and much loved, so I turned out ok and with a heart to fight for peoples civil rights, because what I have been thru myself. This Civil Unions bill SB232 is important for our future children and generations to come that will not ,might not have to go what most us now have been thru and scene today. This bill will help us all grow closer and build better community bonds. It will help break down some walls of hate and ignorance, bigotry. This bill is great for all straight or gay people, it is Equal in that all can embrace Civil Unions and take advantage of the good it can do for not just a couple but a family or them wanting to have a future family, adopt one day. I live and pay taxes, respect all other religious values and and know how to keep Government & Church separate. I just pray and hope without me taking more of your time that you all understand. How many peoples life's and wishes are in your hands. I think the whole country is looking to you and us all to be an example and to define what other states should be doing in the future.

I want to thank each and every one of you on the committee and want you to please know I'm for Civil Unions Bill SB232. I thank all of you today for your time and consideration and hopefully everyone here today can come to good cause and most important the right language for the bill to. Please make sure its done right

Much Mahalo's

JANUARY 24TH 2011

HECTOR R. HOYOS JR.

(aka) Duchess SisterFace

2499 KAPIOLANI BLVD. #3303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826



PO Box 22416 Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 543-6054

prideatworkhawaii@hawaiiantel.net
www.hawaflcio.org/PAWHI

January 25, 2011

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Chair, Sen. Hee
Vice Chair, Sen. Shimabukuro

Testimony in favor of SB232 – Relating to CIVIL UNIONS

Pride At Work Hawai'i, as an affiliate of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO which works to mobilize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) workers and their supporters for full equality and to build mutual support between the labor movement and the LGBT community, strongly supports SB 232. As drafted, the bill would create civil unions for same- sex and opposite-sex couples in Hawai'i, providing them all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage under Hawai'i law.

Over the past four decades, labor support for the rights of LGBT workers has grown tremendously as LGBT union members began to come out and add their issues (such as domestic partner health coverage and anti-discrimination clauses) to the list of bargaining items in negotiations. LGBT workers also came to understand that, given their extreme vulnerability, a strong union contract was an important protection against retaliation and discrimination and for fairness in the workplace. And heterosexual workers came to understand that their co-workers - their union brothers and sisters who they walked picket lines with and worked alongside - were entitled to the same rights and protections as they were: to protect and provide for themselves and their families.

Today, as you consider this bill that would allow same-sex couples the option of becoming partners in civil unions, know that Hawai'i's labor movement strongly supports equality as well. The 2007 convention of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO, in endorsing civil unions legislation, declared that, "while civil marriage is the only true equality under the law, if the government is offering civil unions as a way to provide protection, support, and respect for GLBT families, unions should support those efforts." The State AFL-CIO has reiterated its support for civil unions both in its 2009 convention and through its legislative initiatives.

In fact, unions across the country understand that until the government legally recognizes same-sex relationships, many thousands of families will be deprived of the most important attributes of their labor:

the ability to take care of and provide for their family members. To change this, many national and international unions have passed resolutions in favor of marriage equality, including: American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of Musicians, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, Communications Workers of America, National Education Association, Office and Professional Employees International Union, Service Employees International Union, United Farm Workers and UNITE-HERE. State and local labor federations which have endorsed marriage equality include the California Federation of Labor, the Connecticut AFL-CIO, the New York State AFL-CIO, the King County Labor Council (Seattle, WA), Northern Shore Labor Council (MA), Rochester and Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation (NY), San Francisco Central Labor Council, and Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council.

In California, over 50 unions and labor groups were part of the effort to protect marriage equality there, pointing out that “unions often take political and legal action to protect their members, not only in connection with their employers, but in connection with broader social questions... [Unions] take the position that all... are entitled to be treated with equal dignity and respect.” In New York State, the labor federation noted that “the denial of marriage equality hurts not just individuals, but also family members, neighbors and co-workers who care about the well-being of same-sex couples and the children in their care,... and discriminates against them and relegates them to second-class citizenship.”

The labor movement recognizes that same-sex couples are devoted to each other and love their families, and that without official recognition, they are left vulnerable. In these difficult and uncertain economic times, it is more important than ever to give all workers a fair shake as they struggle to provide for their families. It is deeply unfair that same-sex couples and their families are forced to scramble to cobble together a patchwork of legal documents that still don't provide them with the security and protections they need and deserve. Passage of civil unions legislation is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB232. On behalf of all LGBT workers in Hawai'i, and their families, we urge you to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Dinion, President	Wayne Akana, Vice President
Amy Donahue, Treasurer	Morgan Evans, Secretary

From: Joe O'Brien [obrienhawaiian@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:25 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I Support Marriage Equality

January 24, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: SB 232

I can only imagine the volume of mail that you receive on many issues. Therefore, in respect of your time, I will be brief.

I feel that it is self evident by now, to most people, that granting me and my life partner equal civil rights and marriage equality which is equal to those enjoyed by straight couples will not harm anyone.

In strong support of the bill, I ask it's opponents the following:

How would allowing me to file a joint state tax return with my partner harm anyone else ?

How would allowing me to have a legal right to add him on to my medical insurance policy harm anyone else, as long as I am willing to pay for the family plan ?

How would allowing my partner to have equal and "automatic" rights of survivorship to all of my state benefits harm anyone else ?

Conservatives who oppose civil unions never answer these questions. There is a reason why they don't. It is because they have no answers.

They claim (falsely) that civil unions will somehow hurt society. On the contrary, in the ten countries and several states that have allowed same sex couples marriage equality or civil unions, no such harmful effects have been noticed.

The previous legislature made me proud by standing firm in favor of justice and equality for Hawaii's gay citizens by passing HB 444. House Speaker Say and Senate President Hanabusa had the courage to face the opposition of a prejudiced group who did not care about fairness or about inclusiveness.

May you have the same courage as Mr. Say and Ms. Hanabusa (and the majority of legislators last session) and continue this effort until SB 232 is passed and signed into law by Governor Abercrombie.

Thank you,

*Joseph O'Brien
P.O. 235793
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823*

From: Kahana Ho [kahanakitty@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:52 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

To the Esteemed Members of the State of Hawai'i Senate:

My name is **Kahana Ho**, and **I am writing in support of Senate Bill 232**. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to read my story, which explains why the passage of SB232 is so very important.

I am a lifelong resident of this state, and *my spouse and I have been legally married here for over 12 years*. However, **unless SB 232 passes**, I will have to choose between keeping the status of my marriage legal, and losing protections in the workplace, education, and public accommodations, or gaining those protections, but **sacrificing the status of my marriage**.

Sounds complicated? it's really simple: **i was born to the assigned gender of male, but in 2010, i underwent Gender Reassignment Surgery, and to all medical purposes, i am now a female**, Amazingly, i made my gender transition with the support of my loving spouse. i cannot tell how just how rare she is, and the depth of our commitment to each other, but as a matter of perspective, statistics indicate that 9 out of 10 marriages do not survive the gender transition of one of the spouses, so i think you can see just how deep our commitment is to each other.

However, the **ramifications of my gender transition are such that i have ABSOLUTELY NO protections in the State of Hawai'i from discrimination in employment, public accommodations, education, or medical services and insurance**, on the basis of my gender identity and gender expression, as long as my birth certificate reflects my former gender. i would love nothing more than to bring my legal gender marker in to congruence with my true gender; i would have legal recognition of my identity, AND gain protections from discriminations. The problem with doing so, however, is that **if i do change my gender on my birth certificate, my spouse and i will no longer have a legally recognized marriage in Hawai'i**, or anywhere else, for that matter. why? because we would then be in a same-sex domestic relationship. as a result, we would suffer loss of recognition as spouses, thereby changing our tax filing status, denying us end-of-life decision making power, or even visitation rights, shatter our combined credit rating, and publicly invalidate the legitimacy of our marriage of over 12 years, but of our committed monogamous relationship of well over 22 years.

By the same token, legal recognition of civil unions has no impact whatsoever on the sacred status of marriage within the context of any religion. Churches of any and all denominations have no obligations whatsoever to perform or recognize civil unions; if they choose to perform and honor same-sex marriages, that is wonderful, but if they do not, they face no penalty, no loss, no threat to their religion.

Additionally, same sex partnerships pose no demonstrable harm to children; in fact, by recognizing civil unions of same-sex partnerships, the stress and burdens imposed by the current lack of protections would be lifted, and those families would have the freedom to devote their full attentions to the support and nurturing of their relationships, rather than defending themselves from institutionalized discrimination.

In closing, I wish to say that it is bad enough that I face discrimination on the basis of my gender transition. However, the fact that both my spouse and I ARE currently adversely affected by the lack of any recognition of same-sex unions, as marriages or civil unions, is a cruelty that can only be justified by **homophobia and pure intolerance and hatred**. Such values are **antithetical to the true principles and family values of love**,

devotion, commitment, and aloha. My marriage is no longer a potential victim of inequality and injustice, but **is now a very real victim of the discriminatory lack of legal recognition of same-sex partnerships.**

I therefore humbly ask that you act to act in concert with what is just, fair, and pono: in the name of justice, equality, and aloha, **please pass SB 232**, to support committed relationships, based in true love and aloha, regardless of the sex of the partners. Thank you once again for your kindest consideration of both my testimony, and of SB 232.

With my deepest gratitude and respect,
Kahana Ho
2933 Pāhoehoe Place
Honolulu, Hawai‘i
96817

From: Dylan [dylan427@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232

I am writing to express my support for Civil Unions and urge the Senate's Judiciary and Labor Committee to do the same by passing SB232.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Dylan Arrieta

From: Dr. John Heidel [jheidel@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 232

To: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
For: Hearing of SB 232
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00am
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 16
From: Rev. Dr. John R. Heidel, President, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 232.

My name is John Heidel and I offer this testimony in strong support of SB 232. I'm a minister of the United Church of Christ and began my ministry here in the islands as the Minister of Youth at Central Union Church in 1962 and then served as chaplain of Punahou School for 32 years - retiring in 2001. Today I am representing The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii.

We affirm that people of faith and good will are bound together by shared principles of compassion, civility and mutual respect for the human dignity of all people; we are different branches of a pluralistic society that weave a common thread through the fabric of our nation. The Interfaith Alliance is committed to the guarantee of civil liberties and religious liberties; though they may not always coincide. Civil unions will affirm what kind of interpersonal associations are subject to the protection of law; civil liberties that should be extended to all Americans. The Interfaith Alliance has no intent to evaluate the theology and practice of any particular faith tradition, but affirms its respect for the religious liberties that honor the diversity of approaches to human relationships.

Some of our faiths perform and recognize same-sex marriages, some officially bless unions, and some do neither. We find our diversity to be a source of strength. We affirm the human dignity and worth of all people and we also affirm that civil unions will not endanger our religious traditions nor the stability of our families.

In regard to the opposition to civil unions based on religion, many people of faith acknowledge four important realities: first, every faith tradition is granted the religious freedom to define marriage according to the precepts of their belief; second, civil unions will not deny that freedom nor compromise their concept of marriage; third, sacred literature (like Leviticus) that condemns homosexuality and that is 4,000 years old needs to be understood within the wisdom of more recent scholarship; and fourth, the real threat to traditional marriage is the failure of heterosexual unions to honor family values.

For these reasons, people representing many faith traditions support civil unions. This position is reinforced by arguments for civil rights and social justice.

We thank you for considering this significant civil rights legislation and urge the passage from this committee.

From: Jason Blake [jblakekauai@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232

Aloha!

I am a business owner, a community volunteer and a tax payer on Kauai.

Passing this bill can only do good things for the economy. Some of the most financially able and creative individuals are in same-sex relationship. A civil unions bill provides basic rights to a couple, including the right to visit in the hospital, handle estates, etc. Hawaii needs a civil unions bill for the good of all.

Warmly,

Jason Blake
Kapaa, HI
808-652-5210

From: Lehua Marjorie Wells [lehuapuna@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard

Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011

HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support the passage of SB232.

Lehua Marjorie Wells
Volcano, HI 96785

From: Robert Greeley [Robert@RobertGreeleyLaw.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:46 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I *SUPPORT* SB232

Dear Chairperson Hee and Judiciary Committee Members:

I strongly support the passage of SB232. I used to visit Hawaii frequently, but stopped going after former Gov. Lingle's horrible, hypocritical veto. I would like to return. Please make it possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Greeley
100 E. Middlefield Road, #11
Mountain View, CA 94043

From: kevyngong@gmail.com on behalf of Kevyn F. [kevyngong@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:56 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: KEVYN FONG: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: **Committee on Judiciary**

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard
Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011
HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:
I support the passage of SB232.

I have lived in Hawaii for many years and I would like to call Hawaii my home one day when I return to raise a family with the person that I love.

Kevyn Fong
Los Angeles, CA 91601

--

[Kevyn Fong](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, any use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the author immediately.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:56 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mbarham1975@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Fr. Michael Barham
Organization: Individual
Address: Wilder Avenue Honolulu, HI
Phone: (808) 955-7745
E-mail: mbarham1975@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

Please pass SB232, recognizing civil unions and providing same sex couples with equal rights to heterosexual couples within the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Michael P. Barham,
Honolulu, Hawai`i

From: Georgine [georgineb@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:56 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232

Aloha Chairman Hee, and Committee on Judiciary members,

Please accept this email in support of SB232. It is the right thing for our community to do. Please support the right of all members of our community to create a legal relationship that will strengthen their family, and consequently our community. Thank you for wisdom in deciding to support all of our fellow citizens, not just those of us that already have our right to join in a legal relationship.

Aloha, Georgine Busch
73-4615 Old Government Raod
Kailua Kona HI 96740
808-325-7554 (h)
808-936-3535 (cell)

Aloha,

My name is Melony D. Ortal. I am a professional in the social services field and the mother of two young children. I am writing to support SB232. Working in the social services field, I have learned the importance of equality and fairness. Much of what I have learned through graduate school and working in the field, I would like my children to learn and experience. As my children grow and experience the world, I would like them to have a deep understanding of what equality is. Supporting SB232 will teach my children compassion, understanding, and accepting of others, even more so if it is passed. Additionally, allowing same sex unions will offer same-sex parents the same rights as heterosexual parents. This is important as it will also create a stronger sense of family for same-sex couples and their children. Same-sex couples battle many obstacles that heterosexual couples do not. Affording same-sex couples the right to civil unions will create a platform of equality for same-sex couples as well as teach others tolerance, acceptance and compassion.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Melony D. Ortal

January 25, 20100

Senators of the Judiciary Committee,

This is a request that you vote against Civil Unions Bill S.B. 232 and not allow it to leave your committee. I speak for the majority of residents in my community of Laie who believe that marriage should be limited to the relationship between a man and a woman . We understand that the Civil Unions Bill is a slippery slope leading ultimately to Same-Sex Marriage in our state. This seems clear in view of the examples from other states where law-makers tried to be compassionate and fair by passing Civil Unions. In every case, in Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New Jersey, after the passage of Civil Unions legislation, Same Sex Marriage was subsequently legalized within a few years.

As you consider your vote on S. B. 232, we ask that you to consider the will of the people. When Same-Sex marriage was put to popular vote in Hawaii, the voters voiced their opposition to it. I humbly urge you to represent the will of your constituents by putting a stop to S.B. 232.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Hansen

From: Lesbian [dykxyc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:56 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I am in favor and support of SB 232

Equality love and respect is the least you can do.
Aloha,
Lesbian Zami Sappho Dyke

From: 808 Shopper [808shopper@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:58 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB232 JDL 256Jan11 10:00 AM

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB232

Dear Members of the 26th Legislature,

I **strongly oppose SB232** and ask you to refrain from advancing this piece of legislation any further. This bill is nothing more than allowing for marriage by another name by couples who are less than satisfied by the reciprocal benefits law that already grants benefits to same sex couples and more.

There are more pressing matters that the legislature should be focusing on. The people have already spoken, and this issue has exhausted so much of the legislature's limited and valuable time the last few years, put it on the ballot and let the people decide.

Sincerely,
Glen Torikawa

From: Nathan Komohana [nkomohana@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:58 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard

Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: [January 25, 2011](#)

HEARING TIME: [10:00 a.m.](#)

PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support the passage of SB232.

Thanks,
Nathan

Sent from my iPhone



Jennifer C. Pizer
SENIOR COUNSEL AND
NATIONAL MARRIAGE PROJECT DIRECTOR
jpizer@lambdalegal.org

January 24, 2011

**Via email to JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
and United States Mail**

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawai'i State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Lambda Legal Supports Senate Bill 232 — Civil Unions

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro, and Committee Members,

We write on behalf of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (“Lambda Legal”) in support of Senate Bill 232 (“SB232”), which would allow unmarried couples to enter a civil union which would protect the couple and their dependent family members much more effectively. Civil unions would do this by expanding the important but modest and confusing protections that Hawai'i now allows unmarried couples to assume through registration as reciprocal beneficiaries. Lambda Legal also respectfully encourages the Committee to consider incorporating into SB232 some of the new provisions included in SB231 (which also would allow unmarried couples to enter a civil union). As noted below, these new provisions clarify the rights and duties of civil union partners and are likely to facilitate implementation of this legislation.

Lambda Legal is the nation's oldest and largest legal organization advocating for the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) people. Lambda Legal's family protection advocacy has included providing technical assistance to legislators across the country on dozens of bills relating to marriage, domestic partnership, civil unions, and parenting rights and obligations for same-sex partners, including primary drafting of the California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, which has served as a model for numerous other states since then. Lambda Legal also litigates cases addressing these issues, and over the years has served as counsel or *amicus curiae* in various family protection cases in the Hawai'i courts, in addition to offering

Western Regional Office
3325 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1300 • Los Angeles, CA 90010-1729
t. 213/382-7600 • f. 213/351-6050 • www.lambdalegal.org



information through our Legal Help Desk to many Hawai`i residents about the rights and vulnerabilities of lesbian and gay couples under the state's current laws.

Lambda Legal believes firmly that the soundest way to remedy the inequality same-sex couples face under Hawai`i law is to offer them equal access to the same legal status the state offers to different-sex couples—civil marriage. By creating civil unions and not opening marriage, SB232 does not offer equality to lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Both this bill and SB231 would, however, allow the state to take an important step forward in reducing the harms that committed same-sex couples face because current law does not include them fairly within the family law system. SB232 also would offer important legal protections to other couples for whom marriage is not feasible for any number of personal reasons. It thus would offer greater legal security to many Hawai`i families, and is a sound means of increasing stability for the benefit of society generally.

This legislation is needed urgently. Although Hawai`i's reciprocal beneficiary law does provide important rights that protect registered partners in times of medical crisis, death and other difficult circumstances, Lambda Legal is all too aware that the gaps in the law are terribly confusing and leave these partners without essential rights and responsibilities that SB232 would afford them. We regularly are contacted for assistance through our Legal Help Desk by same-sex partners living in Hawai`i who face uncertainty, vulnerability and sometimes tragedy because their committed family relationships are not recognized due to the current laws' illogic and incomplete coverage. And we see consistently from the needs of these Hawai`i residents and those who contact us from other states that the lack of comprehensive legal protection falls hardest on those who are most vulnerable, including those who are poor, have less education, are older, and/or have dependent children or aging senior family members. SB232 would help mitigate these harms and increase family stability by, for example, providing that these couples are covered by the laws recognizing jointly-acquired property, ensuring mutual responsibility for family debt, and enforcing parental obligations and rights.

Keeping in mind the lessons learned in other states that have protected unmarried partners through civil union or comprehensive domestic partnership legislation, we respectfully encourage you to consider incorporating into SB232 at least provisions analogous to those in SB231 that do the following:

- 1) Confirm that parties who enter a civil union **consent to the jurisdiction of the Hawai`i family courts** with respect to any legal action properly initiated to dissolve the couple's union and any related matters, such as division of property, responsibility for shared debt and any appropriate ongoing support obligations, regardless of whether either or both parties are residents of Hawai`i when the dissolution action is filed;



*Senator Clayton Hee
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Lambda Legal Support for SB232
January 24, 2011, Page 3 of 3*

- 2) Confirm the **parental rights and responsibilities of both civil union partners** regarding any children born to either partner during the couple's civil union;
- 3) Specify that, where Hawai'i law draws upon or refers to federal law for a rule governing family relationships, **Hawai'i law shall assume the federal rule recognizes civil union partners** in the same manner as Hawai'i law, so there will be consistency and a result that treats civil union partners and spouses as close to equally as possible. This rule of construction is especially important with respect to issues of taxation but ought not to be limited to tax matters; and
- 4) Provide that **applicants for a civil union license need not terminate their reciprocal beneficiary registration**, if they are registered, before entering a civil union, to avoid couples being left without legal protection between the termination of the prior status and their secure entrance into the second.

Until the State of Hawai'i fulfills its constitutional promises of equal rights and liberties to its law-abiding, tax-paying lesbian, gay and bisexual citizens by permitting them to marry as their heterosexual friends and neighbors can, measures such as SB232 serve as critical stop-gap protections that can reduce the daily harms inflicted upon same-sex couples and their dependents. Accordingly, Lambda Legal respectfully encourages each of you to give SB232 the strong legislative support it deserves.

Thank you for your very kind consideration of this matter.

Most respectfully,

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.

Jennifer C. Pizer
Senior Counsel and
Marriage Project Director

Tara L. Borelli
Staff Attorney

Stefan C. Johnson
National Help Desk Attorney

cc: Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Les Ihara
Senator Sam Slom



TO: Representative Blake Oshiro
33rd Representative District, House of Representatives, Hawai'i State Legislature

FROM: Naomi G. Goldberg, R. Bradley Sears, and M.V. Lee Badgett
The Williams Institute, University of California, Los Angeles

DATE: June 14, 2010

RE: Potential Impact of HB444 the State of Hawai'i

Executive Summary

This memo summarizes current research about the potential impact on the State of Hawai'i of HB444 HD1 SD1: Relating to Civil Unions on the state economy and budget. We estimate that between 569 and 1,285 same-sex couples will enter civil unions in the first four years that registration is available. Over twenty studies conducted during the past ten years, including by a number of state governments and the Congressional Budget Office, suggest that HB444 will have the following positive fiscal effects. Our analysis is consistent with a recent analysis of the HB444 conducted by researchers at the University of Hawai'i showing measurable and positive effects.¹

Civil unions will boost the economy of Hawai'i through increased spending and jobs.

- Over twenty studies by academic institutions, governments, and trade industry associations have shown that recognizing same-sex couples is likely to increased spending in a state, creating jobs and tax revenues.
- As same-sex couples enter civil unions, businesses in Hawai'i will experience increased spending on civil union celebrations. We estimate that over four years, these couples will spend between \$4.2 million to \$9.5 million on their civil union celebrations. This estimate is just of spending by the couples themselves.
- If out-of-state guest travel to these celebrations is similar to that of travel to weddings of same-sex couples in Massachusetts, out-of-state guests will spend between \$17.8 million and \$40.3 million in Hawai'i over four years on hotels, food, entertainment, and retail. This estimate does not include the spending of in-state guests or the spending by all guests on gifts.
- This increase in spending by same-sex couples and their out-of-state guests will also lead to the creation of 193 to 333 new jobs in the state, most directly in businesses related to the travel and events.

Civil unions will attract highly- skilled "Creative Class" workers to Hawai'i.

- A 2009 study shows that LGBT friendly policies such as civil unions could attract highly skilled worker to a state.
- LGBT-friendly policies, like legal recognition for same-sex couples, signal to potential employers and employees a welcoming and diversity-friendly climate.
- Such an environment is likely to attract the so-called "Creative Class," a mix of individuals in occupations including financiers, software engineers, artists, teachers, and scientists, who represent a key to regional economic development in today's post-industrial and global

economy. Individuals in the creative class are generally young, highly educated, mobile, and are more likely to value innovation and diversity.

- Individuals in same-sex couples are nearly twice as likely as other adults to be in the creative class.
- A 2009 study of marriage for same-sex couples in Massachusetts evaluating the impacts of marriage there after five years found that Creative Class individuals were 2.5 times more likely to move to Massachusetts in the three years after marriage equality than in the three years prior.

Businesses in Hawai'i will be more productive and will not experience significant increases in costs.

- To the extent HB444 encourages more Hawaii businesses to adopt favorable corporate policies toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees, such as non discrimination policies and domestic partner benefits, research has shown such policies improve productivity of current employees.
- Businesses in states with legal recognition of same-sex couples do not report experiencing significant costs as a result of such recognition. Studies of employers who recognize same-sex couples find that there is generally a 0.3 to 1% increase in enrollment when employers offer same-sex partner benefits and a 1.3 to 1.8% increase when benefits are offered only to different-sex couples.

Civil unions will positively impact the State's budget through increased revenue and savings.

- Over twenty studies by academic institutions and governments have shown that legal recognition of same-sex couples would have a positive impact on a state's budget. The net positive impact on a state's budget is driven by three fiscal impacts: tax revenues from celebrations by same-sex couples, filing fees, and savings in means-tested public benefits programs.
- We estimate that the State of Hawai'i will collect \$714,000 to \$1.6 million in excise tax revenues a result of civil union expenditures by same-sex couples and their out-of-state guests over four years.
- The State will also experience an increase in revenue from the filing fee associated with obtaining a civil union. Based on the number of couples expected to enter a civil union, we estimate that the State will see an increase in revenues of \$34,100 to \$77,100 over four years.
- As a result of entering a civil union and having a higher household income, some individuals in Hawai'i may no longer be eligible for means tested public assistance. As a result, the State of Hawai'i will experience a savings in these public assistance programs. Studies of other states and the Congressional Budget Office have estimated this saving to range from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions of dollars. A state with a similar size same-sex couple population as that of Hawai'i, New Hampshire, was estimated to save \$400,000 per year in spending on public benefits programs.

The experience other states that have passed domestic partnership and civil union laws has shown that implementation of HB444 will not create any significant costs or problems.

- Several states that have evaluated similar civil union or domestic partnership laws after they have been passed have shown that they do not result in any significant implementation costs or issues.
- For example, in 2009 testimony by officials in New Jersey indicated that state departments had minimal costs associated with their civil union law and implementation was "seamless."

Introduction

HB444 HD1 SD1: Relating to Civil Unions, which would extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. The impact on the business climate, the economy, and the state budget is explored in this memo using research and experiences of other states that have extended relationship recognition to same-sex and different-sex couples.

Over twenty studies by academic institutions and state and local governments have predicted that relationship recognition for same-sex couples will have a positive economic impact on businesses and the state economy as a result of spending on celebrations by couples.² This analysis relies on the same methods used in previous studies of the fiscal impact of relationship recognition for same-sex couples on Washington, New Mexico, New Hampshire, California, Connecticut, Colorado, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maryland, Maine, Iowa, Oregon, Arizona, Alaska, and the District of Columbia.³ These studies have found that extending the rights and obligations of marriage to same-sex couples would have a positive impact on each state's budget.

Similar conclusions have been reached by legislative offices in Connecticut⁴ and Vermont⁵ and by the Comptroller General of New York.⁶ In addition, the Congressional Budget Office has concluded that if all fifty states and the federal government extended the rights and obligations of marriage to same-sex couples, the federal budget would benefit by nearly \$1 billion each year.⁷ We find that Hawai'i may also experience a positive impact on the economy and the state as a result of celebration spending by same-sex couples.

The estimates included in this memo are conservative for several reasons, including that we do not include different-sex couples in our estimates. According to the 2008 American Community Survey, there are 22,759 unmarried different-sex couples who would also be eligible to enter civil unions if HB444 were enacted.⁸ These estimates also do not include same-sex couples or different-sex couples who may travel from other states to Hawai'i to enter civil unions. Given Hawai'i's existing destination for weddings, it is possible that there may be additional wedding tourism by couples entering civil unions.

Estimates of the Number of Same-Sex Couples Likely to Enter Civil Unions

We predict that approximately as many as 272 same-sex couples in Hawai'i may enter into a civil union within the first year. This figure is based upon estimates from the 2008 American Community Survey, which finds that there are 2,472 same-sex couples living in Hawai'i.⁹ Research from New Jersey, which instituted civil unions in 2007, shows that 11% of same-sex couples living in New Jersey entered civil unions in the first year.¹⁰ Applying this figure to the same-sex couples living in Hawai'i, we estimate that, in the first year, 272 same-sex couples will enter into civil unions. After four years, 23% of same-sex couples in New Jersey had entered into civil unions.¹¹ If Hawai'i experiences similar civil union registrations, we estimate that 569 same-sex couples will enter civil unions within the first four years.

It is possible that same-sex couples in Hawai'i may be more likely to enter civil unions than those couples living in New Jersey. Unlike New Jersey which is located in a region with several other states offering various forms of legal recognition to same-sex couples (marriage in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Washington, D.C., and civil unions in Maine), same-sex couples in Hawai'i do not have as many options for legal recognition in neighboring states. In Massachusetts, which has had marriage equality for same-sex couples since 2004, in the first year 37% of same-sex couples living in Massachusetts married¹² and after four years, 52% of same-sex couples in Massachusetts married.¹³ Applying such figures to the same-sex couples living in Hawai'i, we estimate that 915 same-sex couples

will enter a civil union in the first year and 1,285 same-sex couples may enter civil unions in the first four years.

Civil unions will boost the economy of Hawai'i through increased spending and jobs.

Prior research has shown that civil unions are likely to generate economic gains for Hawai'i businesses, generating tax revenues for state and local governments.¹⁴ Weddings create economic activity as well as jobs, providing a boost to the economy. Forbes magazine projects that if same-sex marriage rights were granted nation-wide, same-sex weddings would generate \$16.8 billion dollars in expenditures, adding significantly to America's annual \$70 billion wedding industry.¹⁵ Another recent estimate concludes that gay marriage will generate a billion dollars per year in spending in the United States.¹⁶

It is likely that some of some of the same-sex couples entering civil unions will have celebrations. A previous survey of same-sex married couples in Massachusetts found that same-sex couples spent, on average, \$7,400 on their celebrations, including invitations, flowers, clothing, entertainment, catering, and other related expenses.¹⁷ Based on the estimated 569 to 1,285 same-sex couples who will enter civil unions in the first four years, we estimate that this celebration-related spending could amount to \$4.2 million to \$9.5 million.

In addition to spending by couples on their celebrations, it is possible that same-sex couples in Hawai'i will invite out-of-state guests to attend their celebrations. A survey of same-sex couples who married in Massachusetts found that they had, on average, 16 out-of-state guests in attendance at their celebrations.¹⁸ We assume that each out-of-state guest will spend the equivalent of the average per diem spending by a Hawai'i tourist for the average number of days spent in Hawai'i by a Hawai'i tourist. The average amount spent by U.S. tourists in Hawai'i in 2009 per day was \$150 for a total trip duration of 10 days.¹⁹ Multiplying this by the number of out-of-state guests attending celebrations, we find that, over four years, celebrated-related expenditures by out-of-state guests could total between \$17.8 million and \$40.3 million based upon the ranges set forth above for the number of couples expected to enter civil unions.

In total, we predict that celebration-related spending by same-sex couples and their guests could total between \$4.2 million and \$30.8 million over four years, with the most likely spending at the lower end of that range. Such spending will help local Hawai'i businesses as well as lead to the creation of new 193 to 333 new tourism-related jobs, based upon 2008 data from the State of Hawai'i estimating the number of jobs created by tourism-related spending.²⁰ This is a conservative estimate given that it only takes into consideration same-sex couples, not different-sex couples, who may enter a civil union, and it is limited to those couples living in Hawai'i, not same-sex or different-sex couples may travel to Hawai'i to enter a civil union. In 2009, 1% of U.S. visitors to Hawai'i indicated that they were visiting to be married.²¹ Given the fact that same-sex couples can now marry in five states and the District of Columbia, the demand for Hawaii civil unions by same-sex couples is likely to be relatively low. However, if out-of-state couples decide to have a ceremony in Hawaii, the business revenue increase would be significantly enhanced.

Civil unions will attract highly- skilled "Creative Class" workers to Hawai'i.

Researchers have recently argued that diversity in laws and policies could positively impact the diversity of communities and, in turn, economic development. Richard Florida, a researcher at the University of Toronto, argues that a vibrant and visible lesbian and gay community marks one of the best predictors of a region's ability to attract a group of workers that he dubs the "creative class".²²

Florida suggests that the “creative class” (comprised of an eclectic mix of individuals in occupations including artists, teachers, financiers, software engineers, and scientists) represents a key to regional economic development in today’s post-industrial and global economy. The creative class is a relatively young, highly educated, and mobile workforce that values innovation and diversity as keys to creating stimulating work environments.

Florida argues that LGBT-friendly policies like legal recognition for same-sex couples signal a welcoming and diversity-friendly climate that fosters entrepreneurship and innovation and attracts the creative class and the companies that employ them. Using the concentration of same-sex couples as an indicator, Florida has found that the “gay index” of a region can be predictive of housing prices, regional development, overall wages, the number of young college graduates moving to an area, and overall economic health.

One study finds a connection between marriage equality and the migration of the creative class. A 2009 study of marriage equality in Massachusetts found that there was a small but positive impact on the number of individuals in same-sex couples who were attracted to the state.²³ This study found that marriage equality in Massachusetts resulted in an increase of younger, female and more highly educated and skilled individuals in same-sex couples moving to the state. These creative class individuals in same-sex couples were 2.5 times more likely to move to Massachusetts in the three years after marriage equality than in the three years before.

Businesses in Hawai’i will be more productive and will not experience significant increases in costs.

To the extent HB444 encourages more Hawaii businesses to adopt favorable corporate policies toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees, such as nondiscrimination policies and domestic partner benefits, research has shown such policies improve productivity of current employees without imposing significant costs. Businesses that have favorable corporate policies toward same-sex couples and LGBT people are better able to attract, recruit, and retain employees, especially those in the creative class.

In one public opinion survey, almost half of LGB employees indicated that partner benefits would be their most important consideration if offered another job.²⁴ Domestic partner benefits are also important for heterosexual employees; 6% of heterosexual employees reported that domestic partner benefits would be the most important factor in deciding whether to accept a new job – more than those who would look for onsite child care, and 7% of heterosexual workers who actually changed jobs reported that domestic partner benefits were the most important factor in their decision.²⁵

Prior research has shown the fiscal impact on businesses of extending benefits to same-sex couples is much less than generally assumed. Previous studies suggest a 0.3 to 1% increase in enrollment when employers offer same-sex domestic partner benefits and a similar increase in costs, and a 1.3 to 1.8% increase when the benefits are offered only to different-sex couples.²⁶ Other research supports that the argument that providing benefits will ultimately benefit employers in terms of recruitment and retention, overall cost savings, and lower uninsured health care costs for state and federal governments.

And, while employers may experience a small increase in health care costs as enrollment increases slightly, it is likely that these increased costs would be offset by the benefits gained.²⁷ Providing domestic partner benefits to employees ultimately reduces the number of uninsured people. As a result, state and federal governments would likely see a reduction in Medicaid spending and

uncompensated care.²⁸ Furthermore, reducing the number of uninsured people would also likely reduce the health care costs for all employers.²⁹

Numerous studies from various academic disciplines suggest that LGBT workers will have greater job satisfaction and be more productive workers if they have legal protection from discrimination.³⁰ Several studies have found higher levels of disclosure in workplaces when employers have their own non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation.³¹ Hawai'i businesses would benefit from being able to increase their competitiveness in attracting such employees.

Civil unions will positively impact the State's budget through increased revenue and savings.

Prior research also indicates that as a result of celebration spending by same-sex couples and their guests, the State of Hawai'i can expect an increase in excise tax revenues.³² If same-sex couples and their guests spend the expected \$5.6 million to \$12.6 million over four years, the state would collect between \$714,000 and \$1.6 million in excise taxes, assuming the current excise rate of 4%.³³

In addition, the state will also experience increased revenue through the filing fee associated with civil unions. If 569 same-sex couples enter civil unions over four years, the State will collect an additional \$34,100 in fees, assuming the proposed filing fee of \$60 per couple. If 1,285 same-sex couples enter civil unions over four years, the State would see an increase in revenue of \$77,100.

Finally, the state will experience savings through a decrease in the number of individuals eligible for means tested benefits programs. A number of other studies, including one conducted by the Congressional Budget Office, has estimated that if the rights and obligations of marriage are extended to same-sex couples, state governments will save money in means tests benefit programs like Medicaid and SSI.³⁴ Spouses are obligated to provide for one another's basic needs. After entering a civil union, a same-sex partner's income and assets would be included in assessing an individual's eligibility for means-tested public benefits after entering a civil union. This will reduce the number of people eligible for such benefits, thereby saving the state money.

Although New Hampshire has different state-level public benefits programs and share of costs on federal benefit programs, it has a similar number of same-sex couples as does Hawai'i. A 2005 study found that allowing same-sex couples to marry in New Hampshire would save the state approximately \$400,000 per year in means tested benefits programs.³⁵ Savings to states are the largest in the areas of Medicaid and Social Security Insurance spending.

The experience other states that have passed domestic partnership and civil union laws has shown that implementation of HB444 will not create any significant costs or problems.

The costs to the State of Hawai'i to implement civil unions are likely to be minimal. Several studies of other states find that state governments have the capacity to implement civil unions.³⁶ For example, the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission recently held hearings to evaluate the effectiveness of civil unions eighteen months after implementation. At these hearings, multiple state officials testified that the costs associated with implementing the civil union legislation were minimal and that implementation was relatively easy. For example, officials from the Departments of Children and Families, Labor and Workforce Development, the Motor Vehicle Commission, the Office of the Courts, and other testified that the costs of implementing the new civil union law were "negligible to none," "the most minimal of costs," and that the implementation itself had been "seamless." Specific officials mentioned that some forms needed to be reprinted, but that such printed fell within the annual procedures.³⁷

A 2005 analysis conducted by the Connecticut Legislative Commissioner concluded that the state's departments were well-prepared to implement the necessary changes and that the costs to do so were minimal.³⁸ For example, the state's judicial department was expected to expand court-based services as a result of the civil union legislation, but the costs for the expansion were small.

Conclusion

This memo estimates the impact on the State of Hawai'i, its economy, businesses, and budget of HB444. Extending civil unions to different-sex and same-sex couples in Hawai'i will positively boost the economy of the state through increased spending and job creation, will attract highly educated and talented members of the "Creative Class," will increase the ability of businesses to recruit and retain employees, and will generate revenue and savings for the State. Additionally, based upon the experiences of states that have implemented civil unions, including Connecticut and New Jersey, the costs to the State of Hawai'i of implementing HB444 would be minimal.

¹ La Croix, S. and K. Burnett. The Impact of Civil Unions on Hawaii's Economy and Government. *Hawaii Reporter* May 24, 2010. <http://boss.hawaiireporter.com/uh-economic-report-the-impact-of-civil-unions-on-hawaii's-economy-and-government/>

² All studies are available on the Williams Institute website: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute. Several of these studies have been published in academic journals; Badgett, M.V.L. and R.B. Sears. Putting a Price on Equality? The impact of same-sex marriage on California's Budget. *Stanford Law and Policy Review* 16: 197, 2005; Badgett, M.V.L., R.B. Sears, and D. Ho. Supporting Families, Saving Funds: An economic analysis of equality for same-sex couples in New Jersey. *Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy* 4:1, 2006; Badgett, M.V.L., A.K. Baumle, S. Kravich, A.P. Romero, and R.B. Sears. The Impact on Maryland's Budget of Allowing Same-Sex Coupls to Marry. *University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class* 7:2, 2007; State of Connecticut, General Assembly. Senate File No. 379. January 2005. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/fc/2005SB-00963-R000379-FC.htm>; State of Vermont, Legislative Council. Report of the Vermont Civil Union Review Commission. January 2001. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/baker/cureport.htm>; Office of the New York City Comptroller. Love Counts: the economic benefits of marriage equality for New York . June 2007. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Love%20Counts.pdf>; Congressional Budget Office. The Potential Budgetary Impact of Same-Sex Marriages. June 21, 2004. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/55xx/doc5559/06-21-SameSexMarriage.pdf>

³ All studies are available on the Williams Institute website: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute. Several of these studies have been published in academic journals; Badgett, M.V.L. and R.B. Sears. Putting a Price on Equality? The impact of same-sex marriage on California's Budget. *Stanford Law and Policy Review* 16: 197, 2005; Badgett, M.V.L., R.B. Sears, and D. Ho. Supporting Families, Saving Funds: An economic analysis of equality for same-sex couples in New Jersey. *Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy* 4:1, 2006; Badgett, M.V.L., A.K. Baumle, S. Kravich, A.P. Romero, and R.B. Sears. The Impact on Maryland's Budget of Allowing Same-Sex Coupls to Marry. *University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class* 7:2, 2007.

⁴ State of Connecticut, General Assembly. Senate File No. 379. January 2005. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/fc/2005SB-00963-R000379-FC.htm>

⁵ State of Vermont, Legislative Council. Report of the Vermont Civil Union Review Commission. January 2001. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/baker/cureport.htm>

⁶ Office of the New York City Comptroller. Love Counts: the economic benefits of marriage equality for New York . June 2007. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Love%20Counts.pdf>

⁷ Congressional Budget Office. The Potential Budgetary Impact of Same-Sex Marriages. June 21, 2004. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/55xx/doc5559/06-21-SameSexMarriage.pdf>

⁸ Analysis of the 2008 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau.

-
- ⁹ Gates, G.J. Same-Sex Spouses and Unmarried Partners in the American Community Survey, 2008. *The Williams Institute* September 2009. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/ACS2008FullReport.pdf>
- ¹⁰ Gates, G.J., M.V.Le. Badgett, and D. Ho. Marriage, Registration and Dissolution by Same-Sex Couples in the U.S. *The Williams Institute* July 2008. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Couples%20Marr%20Regis%20Diss.pdf>
- ¹¹ Id.
- ¹² Id.
- ¹³ Gates, G.J. Same-Sex Spouses and Unmarried Partners in the American Community Survey, 2008. *The Williams Institute* September 2009. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/ACS2008FullReport.pdf>
- ¹⁴ All studies are available on the Williams Institute website: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute. Several of these studies have been published in academic journals; Badgett, M.V.L. and R.B. Sears. Putting a Price on Equality? The impact of same-sex marriage on California's Budget. *Stanford Law and Policy Review* 16: 197, 2005; Badgett, M.V.L., R.B. Sears, and D. Ho. Supporting Families, Saving Funds: An economic analysis of equality for same-sex couples in New Jersey. *Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy* 4:1, 2006; Badgett, M.V.L., A.K. Baumle, S. Kravich, A.P. Romero, and R.B. Sears. The Impact on Maryland's Budget of Allowing Same-Sex Coupls to Marry. *University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class* 7:2, 2007; State of Connecticut, General Assembly. Senate File No. 379. January 2005. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/fc/2005SB-00963-R000379-FC.htm>; State of Vermont, Legislative Council. Report of the Vermont Civil Union Review Commission. January 2001. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/baker/cureport.htm>; Office of the New York City Comptroller. Love Counts: the economic benefits of marriage equality for New York . June 2007. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Love%20Counts.pdf>; Congressional Budget Office. The Potential Budgetary Impact of Same-Sex Marriages. June 21, 2004. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/55xx/doc5559/06-21-SameSexMarriage.pdf>
- ¹⁵ Lagorce, A. The Gay Marriage Windfall: \$16.8 Billion. *Forbes.com* April 5, 2004. http://www.forbes.com/commerce/2004/04/05/cx_al_0405gaymarriage.html
- ¹⁶ Hubler, S. Hotels Are Hoping to Capitalize on a Gay Marriage Boom. *Los Angeles Times* March 28, 2004, at C1.
- ¹⁷ Goldberg, NG, MD Steinberger, and MVL Badgett. The Business Boost from Marriage Equality: Evidence from the Health and Marriage Equality in Massachusetts Survey. *The Williams Institute* May 2009. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/BusinessBoost.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Id.
- ¹⁹ State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Visitor Personal Daily Spending, 2009. <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/visitor-stats/air-visitor-spending-2009.pdf>; State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Monthly Visitor Statistics, December 2009 and Year-to-Date. <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/visitor-stats/tourism/2009/Dec09.pdf>
- ²⁰ State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. Table 7.32 – Economic Activity Generated by Visitor-Related Expenditures: 2002-2008. <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/economic/databook/2008-individual/07/073208.pdf>
- ²¹ State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Monthly Visitor Statistics, December 2009 and Year-to-Date. <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/visitor-stats/tourism/2009/Dec09.pdf>
- ²² *The Rise of the Creative Class* (Basic Books, 2002).
- ²³ Gates, G.J. Marriage Equality and the Creative Class. *The Williams Institute* May 2009. http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/MA_CreativeClass.pdf
- ²⁴ March 2003 poll by Harris Interactive/Witeck-Combs.
- ²⁵ Id.
- ²⁶ Ash, M.A. and M.V.L. Badgett. Separate and Unequal: The Effect of Unequal Access to Employment-Based Health Insurance on Same-Sex and Unmarried Different-Sex Couples. *Contemporary Economic Policy* 24: 582, 2006.
- ²⁷ Badgett, M.V.L. and G.J. Gates. The Effect of Marriage Equality and Domestic Partnership on Business and the Economy. *The Williams Institute*, 2006. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/MarriageEqualityontheEconomy.pdf>
- ²⁸ Id.

²⁹ Id.

³⁰ Day, N.E. and P. Schoenrade. Staying in the Closet Versus Coming Out: Relationships between communication about sexual orientation and work attitudes. *Personnel Psychology* 50: 147, 1997; Driscoll, J.M. et al. Lesbian Identity and Disclosure in the Workplace: Relation to Occupational Stress and Satisfaction. *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 48: 299, 1996; K.H. Griffith and M.R. Hebl. The Disclosure Gay Men and Lesbians: "Coming out" at work. *Journal of Applied Psychology* 87: 1191, 2002.

³¹ S.B. Burton. Organizational Efforts to Affirm Sexual Diversity: A Cross-Level Examination *Journal of Applied Psychology* 86: 17, 2001.

³² All studies are available on the Williams Institute website: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute. Several of these studies have been published in academic journals; Badgett, M.V.L. and R.B. Sears. Putting a Price on Equality? The impact of same-sex marriage on California's Budget. *Stanford Law and Policy Review* 16: 197, 2005; Badgett, M.V.L., R.B. Sears, and D. Ho. Supporting Families, Saving Funds: An economic analysis of equality for same-sex couples in New Jersey. *Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy* 4:1, 2006; Badgett, M.V.L., A.K. Baumle, S. Kravich, A.P. Romero, and R.B. Sears. The Impact on Maryland's Budget of Allowing Same-Sex Coupls to Marry. *University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class* 7:2, 2007; State of Connecticut, General Assembly. Senate File No. 379. January 2005. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/fc/2005SB-00963-R000379-FC.htm>; State of Vermont, Legislative Council. Report of the Vermont Civil Union Review Commission. January 2001. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/baker/cureport.htm>; Office of the New York City Comptroller. Love Counts: the economic benefits of marriage equality for New York . June 2007. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Love%20Counts.pdf>; Congressional Budget Office. The Potential Budgetary Impact of Same-Sex Marriages. June 21, 2004. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/55xx/doc5559/06-21-SameSexMarriage.pdf>

³³ State of Hawai'i, Department of Taxation. http://www6.hawaii.gov/tax/a7_faq.htm#get

³⁴ All studies are available on the Williams Institute website: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute. Several of these studies have been published in academic journals; Badgett, M.V.L. and R.B. Sears. Putting a Price on Equality? The impact of same-sex marriage on California's Budget. *Stanford Law and Policy Review* 16: 197, 2005; Badgett, M.V.L., R.B. Sears, and D. Ho. Supporting Families, Saving Funds: An economic analysis of equality for same-sex couples in New Jersey. *Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy* 4:1, 2006; Badgett, M.V.L., A.K. Baumle, S. Kravich, A.P. Romero, and R.B. Sears. The Impact on Maryland's Budget of Allowing Same-Sex Coupls to Marry. *University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class* 7:2, 2007; State of Connecticut, General Assembly. Senate File No. 379. January 2005. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/fc/2005SB-00963-R000379-FC.htm>; State of Vermont, Legislative Council. Report of the Vermont Civil Union Review Commission. January 2001. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/baker/cureport.htm>; Office of the New York City Comptroller. Love Counts: the economic benefits of marriage equality for New York . June 2007. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Love%20Counts.pdf>; Congressional Budget Office. The Potential Budgetary Impact of Same-Sex Marriages. June 21, 2004. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/55xx/doc5559/06-21-SameSexMarriage.pdf>

³⁵ Badgett, M.V.L. The Impact on New Hampshire's Budget of Allowing Same-Sex Couples to Marry. *The Williams Project and The Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies* November 2005. <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/New%20Hampshire%20Econ%20Study.pdf>

³⁶ State of Vermont, Legislative Council. Report of the Vermont Civil Union Review Commission. January 2001. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/baker/cureport.htm>

³⁷ State of New Jersey, Division on Civil Rights, Civil Union Review Commission. <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/dcr/curc.html>

³⁸ State of Connecticut, General Assembly. Senate File No. 379. January 2005. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/fc/2005SB-00963-R000379-FC.htm>

Naomi G. Goldberg is the Peter J. Cooper Public Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. Naomi's research interests focus on policies affecting families, including adoption, foster care, and aging issues.

R. Bradley Sears is Executive Director of the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, where he is also an Adjunct Professor of Law and teaches sexual orientation and disability law courses. His current research focuses on HIV discrimination by health care providers.

M.V. Lee Badgett is Research Director at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is also on the faculty of the Department of Economics. She studies family policy and employment discrimination related to sexual orientation.

For more information, contact:

The Williams Institute

UCLA School of Law

Box 951476

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476

T (310)267-4382

F (310)825-7270

williamsinstitute@law.ucla.edu

www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Jeffrey Hong. I would like to add my voice in support of SB 232. From my personal perspective as a businessman, as Vice-President of the ACLU, and having served as a Major in the Hawaii Army National Guard, SB 232 will move Hawaii forward.

I am the head of Microsoft Consulting Services in Hawaii. Microsoft is in the business of producing intellectual property (IP). Education, imagination, and a solid work ethic form the raw resources of the IP industry. Diversity is a vital component of any creative environment. Microsoft has resources dedicated to increasing workforce diversity because it is viewed as a competitive advantage.

Last year there was a ballot initiative in Washington State to limit the rights of couples in a Civil Union type relationship. Microsoft spoke with its pocketbook on the importance of a diverse workforce when it donated \$100K to defeat an initiative that would hurt its gay employees. Google and Apple publically stood in opposition to a similar discriminatory proposition in California. Why would our State want to erect a barrier to our competitiveness that other businesses feel a need to remove in their States?

We live in a time where the production of IP can occur anywhere. Technology can now turn our geographic isolation into an advantage and I know we have a solid base of raw resources. My group assists local businesses with their IT systems. These systems are primarily developed here, but also in Boston, Seattle, LA, and India. For Hawaii based work I want to hire locally, but to fill technical gaps I have also hired from the mainland, and abroad.

It is a real disadvantage to be located in a place where the protections of civil unions are lacking. We are competing with Boston, Seattle, LA, and the Bay Area for the same resources who are free to locate their businesses anywhere. How do I convince talented gay persons from these areas to come to Hawaii when they will be losing protections for their families?

This barrier works in other subtle ways to undermine our competitiveness. Many of our brightest children head to the mainland to escape a negative local environment. We are losing some of our best resources.

As the Vice-President of the ACLU SB 232 is easy; it's the right thing to do. Last year, the ACLU contacted the Williams Institute of the UCLA Law School to provide an analysis of the economic effects of HB 444. I have attached the study for your review. It affirms the positive effects of the legislation on the business community and puts into perspective the costs the legislation will impose.

Finally, I speak as one who has served as a Major in the Hawaii Army National Guard, I know there are many gay citizens proudly serving our State and Nation in our armed forces. With the pending elimination of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", gay and lesbian military families will choose to domicile in States that offer protection to their families. Let's make Hawaii a place that Military families want to call home. We need their tax revenue, and we can relieve a source of unnecessary family stress where the dangers of war only amplify the vital need for this legislation.

Finally, I speak as one who has served in the military; I know there are many gay citizens proudly serving our State and Nation in our armed forces. With the pending elimination of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", gay and lesbian military families will choose to domicile in States that offer protection to their families. Let's make Hawaii a place that Military families want to call home. We need their tax revenue, and we can relieve a source of unnecessary family stress where the dangers of war only amplify the vital need for this legislation.

I respectfully urge passage of SB232. It is the right thing to do, it helps our military families, and it removes barriers to our economic competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hong
Principle Consultant
Microsoft Consulting Services Hawaii

To the Hawai'i State Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Re: SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions
Hearing Tuesday, 1/25/2011, 10am
Conference Room 016, State Capitol,
415 S. Beretania Street.

By Shanna Clinton

I am writing in support of SB 232, and encourage lawmakers to amend the implementation date. SB 232 would have enormous impact for myself and my family. My partner and I have been together for 5 years and last year we were elated that HB 444 passed both House and Senate, then deeply disappointed when the governor vetoed the bill. My partner and I have chosen careers of service rather than lucrative ones, she works in adult community mental health and I am currently a graduate student at UH Mānoa, where I am preparing for a career in research and teaching on mental health topics. My partner is now pregnant with twins, which we are expecting in July. Now more than ever, legal protections for our family are vital, not only for equality and security for our relationship, but for the wellbeing of the children we will be raising.

At present, when our children are born I will have absolutely no rights to protect them or legal documentation of my relationship to them. Under present laws, it doesn't matter that my partner and I planned when to have our children, saved money together, paid for fertility services together, thought through childcare options and debated parenting values and styles, or that I am with her for every step of the pregnancy. I will not be on their birth certificate and if my partner, heaven forbid, becomes incapacitated, I will have no rights to determine her care or that of our newborns. I fear powerlessness in worst-case situations, but am also infuriated by the disparities the law creates. A man who has a one night stand with a woman he doesn't know, a teenage boy who accidentally impregnates his girlfriend, even a rapist, each of these men would have more rights to custody and decisions over children born of their unions than I will. As it stands, we will have to pursue a second parent adoption, which may take months and will probably cost us about \$6,000 for our two children, and which will only be granted at the discretion of the judge we happen to get.

My partner and I have done what we can to protect our relationship and document it, we have filed as reciprocal beneficiaries and kept documents on our joint finances and shared leases, but we long for the benefits our heterosexual friends and family take for granted, the right to make medical decisions for each other, to share parental rights for our children, to inherit property and pay taxes jointly. We know many federal-level rights may take more time, but you have an opportunity now to create equality in our state and immediately impact families like mine. Please pass this bill on as swiftly as possible, and for the sake of my partner and I or others in our situation, please push the implementation date sooner or provide a retroactive clause so that we can have equal access to parental rights after this law is implemented.
Sincerely,

Shanna Clinton

Monday, January 24, 2011

To: The Hawaii State Senate, 26th Legislature of 2011
Senator Clayton Hee, chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
All Members of The Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: OPPOSE Senate Bill S.B. 232 – “RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS”
Hearing, Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, 415 So. Beretania St., Honolulu, Conference Room #016

My name is Betty Jean Anderson, and I am a U.C. Berkeley graduate, a married mother of 3 children who have either graduated or are currently in college and have been a resident of Hawaii for 30 years. I urge you to oppose Senate Bill S.B. 232 which would allow civil unions for homosexual couples.

Civil Unions is just the next step to Same-sex Marriage which would alter our state forever. I am originally from San Francisco and have seen the how the climate and culture has changed with the influx of homosexuals to the state. Note, California has still not passed same-sex marriages after living with homosexuality for 30+ years. If one has strong convictions that homosexuality is morally wrong, we will be prohibited from the fundamental right of free speech to express that. The State of Hawaii would be hindering our religious freedom and hinder freedom of speech to communicate that homosexuality is wrong should S.B. 232 become law.

Most importantly, for citizens who believe homosexuality will remain as inconspicuous as it currently is, they will be shocked at the blatancy with which it will be flaunted in our faces because it has become legalized: gay parades, commercials with homosexual men kissing or expressing affection in public, and lawsuits when it is unaccepted by society. It will be especially difficult when our children and grandchildren choose this lifestyle and wonder why we would balk at an alternative lifestyle when it has become legal.

The Hawaii State Legislature will be responsible for obliterating the true meaning of marriage which by definition is the “union of one man with one woman.” Marriage will have lost its meaning for those of us in America who are currently and legally married, i.e. a union of one man and one woman. What should we married people call ourselves when the current definition is eliminated?

I ask that you consider the immense ramifications of legalizing homosexual marriages in Hawaii by reading below what has happened in Massachusetts since same-sex marriages were legalized. We do not want this to change the wonderful family-oriented aloha state we have today for what has historically and medically been considered an aberrant and deviant lifestyle until recent history.

There is not enough time for me to prove to you that the homosexual lifestyle is not one of DNA but one of choice. Please oppose S.B. 232. We know that the next step after “civil unions” is same-sex marriage.

Respectfully submitted,
BettyJean Anderson
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

Part of my testimony is the 4 pages that follow showing the drastic cultural changes that have happened to the state of Massachusetts when Same-sex marriage was legalized.

What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts

It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker
October 20, 2008

Anyone who thinks that same-sex "marriage" is a benign eccentricity which won't affect the average person should consider what it has done in Massachusetts. It's become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. And this train is moving fast. What has happened so far is only the beginning.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its Goodridge opinion, ruling that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex "marriage." Six months later, homosexual marriages began to be performed.

The public schools

The homosexual "marriage" onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003, court decision.

- **At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex "marriage" in early December, 2003.** It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be "marrying" their same-sex partners and starting families either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage – how it is now a normal part of society – was handed out to the students.
- **Within months it was brought into the middle schools.** In September, 2004, an 8th- grade teacher in Brookline, MA, told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the floodgates for teaching homosexuality. "In my mind, I know that, 'OK, this is legal now.' If somebody wants to challenge me, I'll say, 'Give me a break. It's legal now,'" she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.
- **By the following year it was in elementary school curricula.** Kindergartners were given picture books telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, like their own parents. In 2005, when David Parker of Lexington, MA – a parent of a kindergartner – strongly insisted on being notified when teachers were discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and put in jail overnight.
- **Second graders at the same school** were read a book, "King and King", about two men who have a romance and marry each other, with a picture of them kissing. When parents Rob and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt-out their child.
- **In 2006 the Parkers and Wirthlins filed a federal Civil Rights lawsuit** to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt-out their elementary-school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judges dismissed the case. The judges ruled that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children, and that schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt-out their children! Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!

Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is "legal", a federal judge has ruled that the schools now have a *duty* to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite

what parents think or believe!

- In 2006, in the elementary school where my daughter went to Kindergarten, the **parents of a third-grader were forced to take their child out of school because a man undergoing a sex-change operation and cross-dressing was being brought into class** to teach the children that there are now “different kinds of families.” School officials told the mother that her complaints to the principal were considered “inappropriate behavior.”
- **Libraries have also radically changed.** School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have shelves of books to normalize homosexual behavior and the lifestyle in the minds of kids, some of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents complaints are ignored or met with hostility. Over the past year, homosexual groups have been using *taxpayer money* to distribute a large, slick hardcover **book celebrating homosexual marriage** titled “Courting Equality” into every school library in the state.
- **It’s become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to prominently display photos of their same-sex “spouses” and occasionally bring them to school functions.** Both high schools in my own town now have principals who are “married” to their same-sex partners, whom they bring to school and introduce to the students.
- **“Gay days” in schools are considered necessary** to fight “intolerance” which may exist against same-sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold “gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender appreciation days”. They “celebrate” homosexual marriage and move forward to other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality. In my own town, a school committee member recently announced that combating “homophobia” is now a top priority.
- **Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to down.** The schools are already moving on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and sex changes). The state-funded *Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth* includes leaders who are transsexuals.

Public health

- **The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health** is “married” to another man. In 2007 he told a crowd of kids at a state-sponsored youth event that it’s “wonderful being gay” and he wants to make sure there’s enough HIV testing available for all of them.
- Since homosexual marriage became “legal” the **rates of HIV / AIDS have gone up considerably in Massachusetts.** This year public funding to deal with HIV/AIDS has risen by \$500,000. As the homosexual lobby group *MassEquality* wrote to their supporters after successfully persuading the Legislature to spend that money: “With the rate of HIV infections rising dramatically in Massachusetts, it’s clear the fight against AIDS is far from over.”
- Citing “the right to marry” as one of the “important challenges” in a place where “it’s a great time to be gay”, **the Massachusetts Department of Public Health helped produce *The Little Black Book, Queer in the 21st Century***, a hideous work of obscene pornography which was given to kids at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives “tips” to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to “safely” have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It also included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Domestic violence

- Given the extreme dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt the need to **spend more money every year to deal with skyrocketing homosexual domestic violence**. This year \$350,000 was budgeted, up \$100,000 from last year.

Business

- **All insurance in Massachusetts** must now recognize same-sex “married” couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.
- Businesses must recognize same-sex “married” couples in **all their benefits, activities, etc.**, regarding both employees and customers.
- **The wedding industry is required serve the homosexual community** if requested. Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must do same-sex marriages or be arrested for discrimination.
- **Businesses are often “tested” for tolerance by homosexual activists**. Groups of homosexual activists often go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient “equality” — now that homosexual marriage is “legal”. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce “marriage equality”.

Legal profession

- **The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex “marriage” issues**. In 2007, a Boston man, Stephen Dunne, failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer the questions in it about homosexual marriage.
- Issues regarding homosexual “families” are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law **must now attend seminars on homosexual “marriage”**. There are also now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.

Adoption of children to homosexual “married” couples

- **Homosexual “married” couples can now demand to be able to adopt children** the same as normal couples. *Catholic Charities* decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.
- **In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men “married” to each other as their “Parents of the Year”**. The men already adopted a baby through DSS (against the wishes of the baby’s birth parents). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final DSS approached the men about adopting a second child. Homosexuals now appear to be put in line for adopting children ahead of heterosexual parents by state agencies in Massachusetts.

Government mandates

- **In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired**. At least one Justice of the Peace decided to resign.
- Also **Marriage licenses in Massachusetts now have “Party A and Party B” instead of**

“husband and wife.” Imagine having a marriage license like that.

- Since homosexual relationships are now officially “normal”, **the Legislature now gives enormous tax money to homosexual activist groups.** In particular, the *Massachusetts Commission on Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Youth* is made up of the most radical and militant homosexual groups which target children in the schools. This year they are getting \$700,000 of taxpayer money to go into the public schools.
- **In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws** to include homosexual “married” couples in the coverage.

The public square

- Since gay “marriage”, **annual gay pride parades** have become more prominent. There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. **And the envelope gets pushed further and further.** There is now a profane “Dyke March” through downtown Boston, and recently a “transgender” parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed so they could “become” men. Governor Patrick even marched with his “out lesbian” 17-year old daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a “leather” group brandishing a black & blue flag, whips and chains!

The media

- Boston media, particularly the Boston Globe newspaper, regularly does **feature stories and news stories portraying homosexual “married” couples where regular married couples would normally be used.** It’s “equal”, they insist, so there must be no difference in the coverage. Also, the **newspaper advice columns** now deal with homosexual “marriage” issues, and how to properly accept it.
- **A growing number of news reporters and TV anchors** are openly “married” homosexuals who march in the “gay pride” parades.

In conclusion

Homosexual “marriage” hangs over society like a hammer with the force of law. And it’s only just begun. Unfortunately, like elsewhere else in America, the imposition of same-sex marriage on the people of Massachusetts was a combination of radical, arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians.

It’s pretty clear that the homosexual movement’s obsession with marriage is not because large numbers of them actually want to marry each other. In fact, a very low percentage of homosexuals actually “marry”. (In fact, over the last three months, the *Sunday Boston Globe’s* marriage section hasn’t had any photos of homosexual marriages. In the beginning it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexual relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and “marriage” as we know it isn’t something they can achieve, or even desire. *This is about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and imposing it with force throughout the various social and political institutions of a society that would never accept it otherwise. To the rest of America: You’ve been forewarned.*

(For a copy of this article with links to source material see www.MassResistance.org)

What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts

It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker

October 20, 2008

Anyone who thinks that same-sex “marriage” is a benign eccentricity which won’t affect the average person should consider what it has done in Massachusetts. It’s become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. And this train is moving fast. What has happened so far is only the beginning.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its Goodridge opinion, ruling that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex “marriage.” Six months later, homosexual marriages began to be performed.

The public schools

The homosexual “marriage” onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003, court decision.

- **At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex “marriage” in early December, 2003.** It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be “marrying” their same-sex partners and starting families either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage – how it is now a normal part of society – was handed out to the students.
- **Within months it was brought into the middle schools.** In September, 2004, an 8th- grade teacher in Brookline, MA, told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the floodgates for teaching homosexuality. “In my mind, I know that, ‘OK, this is legal now.’ If somebody wants to challenge me, I’ll say, ‘Give me a break. It’s legal now,’” she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.
- **By the following year it was in elementary school curricula.** Kindergartners were given picture books telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, like their own parents. In 2005, when David Parker of Lexington, MA – a parent of a kindergartner – strongly insisted on being notified when teachers were discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and put in jail overnight.
- **Second graders at the same school** were read a book, “King and King”, about two men who have a romance and marry each other, with a picture of them kissing. When parents Rob and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt-out their child.
- **In 2006 the Parkers and Wirthlins filed a federal Civil Rights lawsuit** to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt-out their elementary-school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judges dismissed the case. The judges ruled that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children, and that schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt-out their children! Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!

Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is “legal”, a federal judge has ruled that the schools now have a *duty* to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!

- In 2006, in the elementary school where my daughter went to Kindergarten, the **parents of a**

third-grader were forced to take their child out of school because a man undergoing a sex-change operation and cross-dressing was being brought into class to teach the children that there are now “different kinds of families.” School officials told the mother that her complaints to the principal were considered “inappropriate behavior.”

- **Libraries have also radically changed.** School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have shelves of books to normalize homosexual behavior and the lifestyle in the minds of kids, some of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents complaints are ignored or met with hostility. Over the past year, homosexual groups have been using *taxpayer money* to distribute a large, slick hardcover **book celebrating homosexual marriage** titled “Courting Equality” into every school library in the state.
- **It’s become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to prominently display photos of their same-sex “spouses” and occasionally bring them to school functions.** Both high schools in my own town now have principals who are “married” to their same-sex partners, whom they bring to school and introduce to the students.
- **“Gay days” in schools are considered necessary** to fight “intolerance” which may exist against same-sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold “gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender appreciation days”. They “celebrate” homosexual marriage and move forward to other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality. In my own town, a school committee member recently announced that combating “homophobia” is now a top priority.
- **Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to down.** The schools are already moving on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and sex changes). The state-funded *Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth* includes leaders who are transsexuals.

Public health

- **The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health** is “married” to another man. In 2007 he told a crowd of kids at a state-sponsored youth event that it’s “wonderful being gay” and he wants to make sure there’s enough HIV testing available for all of them.
- Since homosexual marriage became “legal” the **rates of HIV / AIDS have gone up considerably in Massachusetts.** This year public funding to deal with HIV/AIDS has risen by \$500,000. As the homosexual lobby group *MassEquality* wrote to their supporters after successfully persuading the Legislature to spend that money: “With the rate of HIV infections rising dramatically in Massachusetts, it’s clear the fight against AIDS is far from over.”
- Citing “the right to marry” as one of the “important challenges” in a place where “it’s a great time to be gay”, **the Massachusetts Department of Public Health helped produce *The Little Black Book, Queer in the 21st Century***, a hideous work of obscene pornography which was given to kids at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives “tips” to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to “safely” have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It also included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Domestic violence

- Given the extreme dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt the need to **spend more money every year to deal with skyrocketing**

homosexual domestic violence. This year \$350,000 was budgeted, up \$100,000 from last year.

Business

- **All insurance in Massachusetts** must now recognize same-sex “married” couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.
- Businesses must recognize same-sex “married” couples in **all their benefits, activities, etc.**, regarding both employees and customers.
- **The wedding industry is required serve the homosexual community** if requested. Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must do same-sex marriages or be arrested for discrimination.
- **Businesses are often “tested” for tolerance by homosexual activists.** Groups of homosexual activists often go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient “equality” — now that homosexual marriage is “legal”. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce “marriage equality”.

Legal profession

- **The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex “marriage” issues.** In 2007, a Boston man, Stephen Dunne, failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer the questions in it about homosexual marriage.
- Issues regarding homosexual “families” are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law **must now attend seminars on homosexual “marriage”**. There are also now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.

Adoption of children to homosexual “married” couples

- **Homosexual “married” couples can now demand to be able to adopt children** the same as normal couples. *Catholic Charities* decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.
- **In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men “married” to each other as their “Parents of the Year”**. The men already adopted a baby through DSS (against the wishes of the baby’s birth parents). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final DSS approached the men about adopting a second child. Homosexuals now appear to be put in line for adopting children ahead of heterosexual parents by state agencies in Massachusetts.

Government mandates

- **In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired.** At least one Justice of the Peace decided to resign.
- Also **Marriage licenses in Massachusetts now have “Party A and Party B” instead of “husband and wife.”** Imagine having a marriage license like that.
- Since homosexual relationships are now officially “normal”, **the Legislature now gives**

enormous tax money to homosexual activist groups. In particular, the *Massachusetts Commission on Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Youth* is made up of the most radical and militant homosexual groups which target children in the schools. This year they are getting \$700,000 of taxpayer money to go into the public schools.

- **In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws** to include homosexual “married” couples in the coverage.

The public square

- Since gay “marriage”, **annual gay pride parades** have become more prominent. There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. **And the envelope gets pushed further and further.** There is now a profane “Dyke March” through downtown Boston, and recently a “transgender” parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed so they could “become” men. Governor Patrick even marched with his “out lesbian” 17-year old daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a “leather” group brandishing a black & blue flag, whips and chains!

The media

- Boston media, particularly the Boston Globe newspaper, regularly does **feature stories and news stories portraying homosexual “married” couples where regular married couples would normally be used.** It’s “equal”, they insist, so there must be no difference in the coverage. Also, the **newspaper advice columns** now deal with homosexual “marriage” issues, and how to properly accept it.
- **A growing number of news reporters and TV anchors** are openly “married” homosexuals who march in the “gay pride” parades.

In conclusion

Homosexual “marriage” hangs over society like a hammer with the force of law. And it’s only just begun. Unfortunately, like elsewhere else in America, the imposition of same-sex marriage on the people of Massachusetts was a combination of radical, arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians.

It’s pretty clear that the homosexual movement’s obsession with marriage is not because large numbers of them actually want to marry each other. In fact, a very low percentage of homosexuals actually “marry”. (In fact, over the last three months, the *Sunday Boston Globe’s* marriage section hasn’t had any photos of homosexual marriages. In the beginning it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexual relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and “marriage” as we know it isn’t something they can achieve, or even desire. *This is about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and imposing it with force throughout the various social and political institutions of a society that would never accept it otherwise. To the rest of America: You’ve been forewarned.*

(For a copy of this article with links to source material see www.MassResistance.org)

From: Brian Kossen [briank@aidesignstudio.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:03 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: I Support S.B. 232, the civil unions bill

Aloha, I Support S.B. 232, the civil unions bill.

I am a tax paying citizen of the state of Hawaii and have been in a relationship with my partner for nearly 10 years. We both run our own businesses and have been accepted by our community as a gay male couple.

We are afforded equal protection under the law in the United States Constitution.

5 states currently allow civil unions and 6 other states have Domestic partnerships similar to civil unions and many cities and counties across the US do as well.

Hawaii has always been a special place of accepting people for their differences and now has a chance to take a leadership role and extend the spirit of Aloha to the entire nation by passing S.B. 232, the civil unions bill.

After the despicable act by our last Governor to veto the Civil Unions Bill last July, I encourage the Hawaii State Legislature to erase that travesty by passing S.B. 232, the civil unions bill this time around.

Mahalo,
Brian

Brian Kossen
//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//
AI Design Studio
3732 B Kilauea Ave.
Honolulu HI, 96816
808.386.9927
<http://www.aidesignstudio.com>

From: Nathan Braulick [braulick@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:30 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard
Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011
HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:
I support the passage of SB232.

Sincerely,
Nathan Leo Braulick
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96816

From: Rob Hauff [rhauff@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:30 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Pass SB232

Dear Senators:

Recognizing same-sex relationships under the law is the right and just thing to do. Someday our children will look back and wonder what all the fuss was about. Please quickly facilitate the passing of this bill.

Aloha,
Robert Hauff

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:33 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: lt@acluhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB 231.pdf

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Laurie Temple
Organization: ACLU of Hawaii
Address: P.O. Box 3410 Honolulu, HI 96801
Phone: (808) 522-5905
E-mail: lt@acluhawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

THE SENATE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 231

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that the State has an essential duty to its people to provide equal protection under the law pursuant to article I, section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution. The State did not create marriage or the traditional nuclear family; rather the State, over time, has woven into our laws a collection of rights and benefits to support and sanction traditional marriage. This collection of rights and benefits has provided substantial advantages to married couples, but the duty of equal protection mandates that these rights and benefits may not be exclusive or be denied to similarly situated individuals in loving and committed relationships who are not eligible to marry or for whom marriage is not feasible.

Accordingly, to meet our constitutional obligation of equal protection to Hawaii's people, the legislature believes that the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under state law, whether derived from statutes, administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any other source of Hawaii law, that are currently granted to married couples must also be extended to certain other

individuals in loving and committed relationships. The legislature also acknowledges the traditional and special role of marriage in our society and seeks to protect it by establishing a new and separate status for these other loving and committed relationships. In order to both respect traditional marriage and provide equity to other couples, it is the intent of the legislature to recognize civil unions in Hawaii.

The purpose of this Act is to provide such equality of rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities to loving and committed relationships between certain other individuals who are not eligible to marry or for whom marriage is not feasible by recognizing and adopting civil unions in Hawaii. By establishing the status of civil unions in our State, it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage under chapter 572, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

PART I

CIVIL UNIONS; POLICY

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

CIVIL UNIONS

§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agent" means the person or persons appointed as an agent or agents by the department pursuant to section -7.

"Civil union" means a union between two individuals established pursuant to this chapter.

"Department" means the department of health.

"Director" means the director of health.

"Partner" means an individual who is a party to a civil union established pursuant to this chapter.

§ -2 Rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities.

Partners to a civil union lawfully entered into pursuant to this chapter shall have all of the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any other source of Hawaii law, as are granted to those who contract, obtain a license, and are solemnized pursuant to chapter 572, including but not limited to the rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities described in the following:

- (1) Chapter 87A, relating to the Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund;
- (2) Chapter 431, the insurance code;
- (3) Chapter 572D, the uniform premarital agreement act; and
- (4) Chapter 580, relating to annulment, divorce, and separation.

The foregoing is not intended to constitute an exhaustive list of rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities applicable to partners to a civil union.

§ -3 Other jurisdictions. All unions entered into in other jurisdictions between two individuals not recognized under section 572-3 shall be recognized as civil unions, provided that the relationship meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter, has been entered into under the laws of that jurisdiction, and can be documented.

§ -4 Applicability to other laws. A party to a civil union shall be included in any use of the terms "spouse", "husband", "wife",

"widow", "widower", "family", "immediate family", "dependent", "next of kin", and other terms that denote or describe the spousal or family relationship, including but not limited to "married" and "marriage" and related terms, as those terms are used throughout the law, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

§ -5 Eligibility to enter into a civil union. A person shall be eligible to enter into a civil union only if:

- (1) The person is not a partner in another civil union or a spouse in a marriage;
- (2) The person is at least eighteen years of age;
- (3) The person's consent has not been obtained by force, duress, or fraud;
- (4) The person is not afflicted with a loathsome disease concealed from, and unknown to, the other proposed partner in the civil union; and
- (5) The person does not stand in relation to the other proposed partner in the civil union as ancestor and descendant of any degree whatsoever, siblings of the half as well as to the whole blood, uncle and niece or nephew, aunt and niece or nephew, whether the relationship is the result of the issue of parents married or not married to each other.

§ -6 Persons under control of conservator or guardian. (a) No civil union license may be issued to any applicant under the supervision or control of a conservator or guardian, appointed in accordance with chapter 560, unless the written consent of the conservator or guardian, signed and notarized, is filed with the agent.

- (b) Any person who enters into a civil union without the consent

provided for in subsection (a) shall acquire no rights by that civil union in the property of any person who was under the control or supervision of a conservator or guardian at the time the civil union was entered into.

§ -7 Civil union license; agent to grant; fee. (a) The department shall appoint, and at its pleasure remove, one or more suitable persons as agents authorized to grant civil union licenses under this chapter in each judicial circuit; provided that the agent or agents appointed under section 572-5(a) shall also grant licenses in accordance with this section. The agents may issue licenses from any state facility when deemed necessary by the director. Any agent appointed under this subsection and receiving an application for a civil union license shall collect from the applicant for the license \$60, of which the agent, except those provided for in subsection (b), shall retain \$9 for the agent's benefit and compensation and shall remit \$51 to the director of health. Remittances collected under this subsection shall be deposited and apportioned in the same manner as prescribed in section 572-5(a).

(b) The department may appoint, as regular employees under the civil service and classification laws, the number of suitable persons as agents authorized to grant civil union licenses for whom provision has been made in the general appropriation act; provided that the agent or agents appointed under section 572-5(b) shall also grant licenses in accordance with this section. In the case of these agents, the full amount collected from applicants shall be remitted to the director of health. Remittances collected under this subsection shall be deposited and apportioned in the same manner as prescribed in section 572-5(b).

(c) Every agent appointed under this section shall administer the oaths required by this chapter to be taken.

(d) The department or its authorized agents shall furnish to each applicant for a civil union license a brochure explaining rubella, the risks of infection with rubella during pregnancy, and how to seek testing and immunization. The department or its authorized agents shall also furnish to each applicant for a civil union license information, to be provided by the department, relating to population stabilization, family planning, birth control, fetal alcohol and drug syndromes, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), including the availability of anonymous testing for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection at alternate test sites, provided that the information is available.

(e) In addition to the fee prescribed under subsection (a), the agent, except those provided for in subsection (b), shall collect from the applicant for the license a surcharge of \$5, of which the agent shall retain the full amount for the agent's additional benefit and compensation.

§ -8 Application; license; limitations. (a) To secure a license to enter into a civil union, the persons applying for the license shall appear personally before an agent authorized to grant civil union licenses and shall file with the agent an application in writing. The application shall be accompanied by a statement signed and sworn to by each of the persons, setting forth: the person's full name, date of birth, social security number, and residence; their relationship, if any; the full names of parents; and that all prior marriages or civil unions, if any, have been dissolved by death or dissolution. If all prior marriages or civil unions have been

dissolved by death or dissolution, the statement shall also set forth the date of death of the last prior spouse or civil union partner or the date and jurisdiction in which the last decree of dissolution was entered. The statement shall also contain a provision attesting that each prospective partner consents to the jurisdiction of the family courts of Hawaii for the purpose of an action to obtain a decree of annulment, divorce, or separation concerning the civil union, or any other order authorized under chapter 580, or for any other proceeding related to the partners' rights and obligations, even if one or both partners do not reside in, or maintain a domicile in, this State. Any other information consistent with the standard marriage or civil union certificate as recommended by the Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics, may be requested for statistical or other purposes, subject to approval of and modification by the department; provided that the information shall be provided at the option of the applicant and no applicant shall be denied a license for failure to provide the information. The agent shall indorse on the application, over the agent's signature, the date of the filing thereof and shall issue a license which shall bear on its face the date of issuance. Every license shall be of full force and effect for thirty days commencing from and including the date of issuance. After the thirty-day period, the license shall become void and no civil union solemnization shall be performed thereon.

It shall be the duty of every person, legally authorized to grant licenses to enter into a civil union, to immediately report the issuance of every civil union license to the agent of the department in the district in which the license is issued, setting forth all facts required to be stated in the manner and on a form as the

department may prescribe.

§ -9 Applicant apparently under age. If any applicant for a license to enter into a civil union appears to any agent to be under the age of eighteen years, the agent shall, before granting a license to enter into the civil union, require the production of a certificate of birth or other satisfactory proof showing the age of the applicant.

§ -10 Solemnization; license to perform; no requirement to join persons in a civil union. (a) A civil union shall become valid only upon completion of a solemnization by a person licensed in accordance with this section.

(b) A license to solemnize civil unions may be issued to, and the civil union rite may be performed and solemnized by any minister, priest, or officer of any religious denomination or society who has been ordained or is authorized to solemnize civil unions according to the usages of the denomination or society, or any religious society not having clergy but providing solemnization in accordance with the rules and customs of that society, or any justice or judge or magistrate, active or retired, of a state or federal court in the State, upon presentation to the person or society of a license to enter into a civil union, as prescribed by this chapter. The person or society may receive the price stipulated by the parties or the gratuity tendered.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any person authorized to perform solemnizations under chapter 572 or civil unions under this chapter to solemnize a civil union, and no authorized person who fails or refuses for any reason to join persons in a civil union shall be subject to any fine or other penalty for the failure or refusal.

(d) No agent may solemnize a civil union; nor may any assistant or deputy of the agent solemnize a civil union.

(e) No person shall solemnize a civil union without first having obtained a license from the department.

§ -11 Record of solemnization; civil unions, reported by whom; certified copies. (a) Recordkeeping. Every person authorized to solemnize a civil union shall make and preserve a record of every civil union solemnized by the person, comprising the names of the persons entering into the civil union, their place of residence, and the date of their civil union.

Every person authorized to solemnize a civil union, who neglects to keep a record of any civil union solemnized by that person shall be fined \$50.

(b) Civil unions, reported by whom. It shall be the duty of every person who is legally authorized to perform the civil union solemnization to report within three business days every civil union solemnization, performed by the person, to the agent of the department in the district in which the civil union takes place setting forth all facts required to be stated in a standard certificate of civil union, the form and contents of which shall be prescribed by the department.

(c) Certified copies of certificate of civil union. The department shall deliver one certified copy of the certificate of civil union or the contents or any part thereof as provided in section 338-13 to the persons who entered into the civil union. The certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the fact of the civil union in any proceeding in any court.

The department shall upon request, furnish to any applicant additional certified copies of the certificate of civil union or any

part thereof.

Copies of the contents of any certificate on file in the department, certified by the department, shall be considered for all purposes the same as the original.

The department may prescribe reasonable fees, if any, to be paid for certified copies of certificates.

§ -12 Revocation or suspension of licenses to solemnize. Any license to solemnize civil unions issued pursuant to section -10 may be revoked or suspended by the department, if the holder of the license has failed to comply with the applicable provisions of this chapter or of the rules of the department or no longer qualifies to solemnize civil unions under the applicable provisions of this chapter or of the rules of the department.

§ -13 Delivery of records to department; penalty. Whenever any agent authorized to grant civil union licenses ceases to be an agent, or is directed to cease granting civil union licenses by the department, or leaves the State, the agent shall deliver to the department all the agent's records of civil union licenses. Upon the death of the agent, the records shall be delivered to the department by the agent's personal representative or other legal representative.

Whenever any person holding a license to perform the civil union solemnization is directed to do so by the department, or whenever the license is canceled or otherwise terminated, or upon the departure from the State of the person, the person shall deliver to the department all the person's records of civil unions, or upon the death of the person, the records shall be delivered to the department by the person's personal representative or other legal representative.

Any person violating this section shall be fined not more than

\$500.

§ -14 Rules and regulations. The director of health may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this chapter."

PART II

CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

SECTION 3. Chapter 231, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§231- Effect of civil union. Notwithstanding federal law to the contrary, all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code operative for the purpose of this chapter that apply to a husband and wife, spouses, or person in a legal marital relationship shall also apply with the same force and effect to partners to a civil union as if they were "husband and wife", "spouses", or other terms that describe persons in a legal marital relationship."

SECTION 4. Chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§235- Effect of civil union. Notwithstanding federal law to the contrary, all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code operative for the purpose of this chapter that apply to a husband and wife, spouses, or person in a legal marital relationship shall also apply with the same force and effect to partners to a civil union as if they were "husband and wife", "spouses", or other terms that describe persons in a legal marital relationship."

SECTION 5. Chapter 236D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as

follows:

"§236D- Effect of civil union. Notwithstanding federal law to the contrary, all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code operative for the purpose of this chapter that apply to a husband and wife, spouses, or person in a legal marital relationship shall also apply with the same force and effect to partners to a civil union as if they were "husband and wife", "spouses", or other terms that describe persons in a legal marital relationship."

SECTION 6. Section 572C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[†]§572C-4[†] Requisites of a valid reciprocal beneficiary relationship. In order to enter into a valid reciprocal beneficiary relationship, it shall be necessary that:

- (1) Each of the parties be at least eighteen years old;
- (2) Neither of the parties be married, a partner in a civil union, nor a party to another reciprocal beneficiary relationship;
- (3) The parties be legally prohibited from marrying one another under chapter 572;
- (4) Consent of either party to the reciprocal beneficiary relationship has not been obtained by force, duress, or fraud; and
- (5) Each of the parties sign a declaration of reciprocal beneficiary relationship as provided in section 572C-5."

SECTION 7. Section 572C-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending its title to read:

"[†]§572C-7[†] Termination of reciprocal beneficiary

relationship; filing fees and records; termination upon marriage[-] or civil union."

2. By amending subsections (c) and (d) to read:

"(c) Any marriage or civil union license subsequently issued by the department to any individual registered as a reciprocal beneficiary shall automatically terminate the individual's existing reciprocal beneficiary relationship.

(d) If either party to a reciprocal beneficiary relationship enters into a legal marriage[7] or civil union, the parties shall no longer have a reciprocal beneficiary relationship and shall no longer be entitled to the rights and benefits of reciprocal beneficiaries."

SECTION 8. Chapter 584, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§584- Child of parents in a civil union. The rights and obligations of civil union partners with respect to a child of whom either partner becomes the parent during the term of the civil union shall be the same as those of a married couple with respect to a child of whom either spouse or partner becomes the parent during the marriage, including the presumption that a partner of a civil union is presumed to be the natural parent of a child conceived by the other partner where the biological parent and the nonbiological partner are or have been in a civil union and:

- (1) The child is born while the civil union is in effect, or within three hundred days after the civil union is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce, or after a decree of separation is entered by a court; or

(2) The nonbiological partner has shown indicia of commitment to be a parent to the child."

SECTION 9. Section 580-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§580-1 Jurisdiction; hearing. Exclusive original jurisdiction in matters of annulment, divorce, and separation, subject to section 603-37 as to change of venue, and subject also to appeal according to law, is conferred upon the family court of the circuit in which the applicant has been domiciled or has been physically present for a continuous period of at least three months next preceding the application therefor. No absolute divorce from the bond of matrimony shall be granted for any cause unless either party to the marriage has been domiciled or has been physically present in the State for a continuous period of at least six months next preceding the application therefor. A person who may be residing on any military or federal base, installation, or reservation within the State or who may be present in the State under military orders shall not thereby be prohibited from meeting the requirements of this section.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the family court of each circuit court shall have jurisdiction over all proceedings relating to the annulment, divorce, and separation of a civil union entered into in this State, even if neither civil union partner is a resident of, or maintains a domicile in, Hawaii at the time the proceedings are filed."

SECTION 10. Section 580-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[†]§580-3.5[‡] Personal judgment against absent defendant.

(a) In any proceeding in the family court, the court shall have the

power to render a personal judgment against a party who is outside of this State and over whom jurisdiction is acquired by service of process in the manner set forth in section 580-3(b) or (c), if the party was personally served with a copy of the summons or order to show cause and complaint or other pleading upon which the judgment is based and if the party was a domiciliary of this State (1) at the time that the cause of action which is the subject of the proceeding arose, or (2) at the time of the commencement of the proceeding, or (3) at the time of service.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), in any proceeding in the family court, the court shall have the power to render a personal judgment against a party who is outside of this State and over whom jurisdiction is acquired by service of process in the manner set forth in section 580-3(b) or (c), if the party was personally served with a copy of the summons or order to show cause and complaint or other pleading upon which the judgment is based and if the parties to the proceeding entered into a civil union in this State pursuant to chapter _____, which civil union is the basis of the proceeding."

SECTION 11. Section 584-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"**[†]§584-1[†] Parent and child relationship defined.** As used in this chapter, "parent and child relationship" includes the legal relationship existing between a child and the child's natural mother, between a child and father or mother whose relationship as parent and child is established under this chapter, or between a child and the child's adoptive parents, incident to which the law confers or imposes rights, privileges, duties, and obligations."

SECTION 12. Section 572-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

repealed.

~~["**§572-1.6** Private solemnization not unlawful. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to render unlawful, or otherwise affirmatively punishable at law, the solemnization of same sex relationships by religious organizations; provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any of the benefits, burdens, or obligations of marriage under the laws of Hawaii."]]~~

PART III

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 13. In codifying the new sections added by section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the numbers used in designating the new sections in this Act.

SECTION 14. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that the new sections designated as sections -2, -3, -8, and -10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as established by section 2 of this Act, and sections 6, 7, and 12 of this Act shall take effect one hundred twenty days after the date of approval of this Act; provided further that sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2011.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:

Civil Unions

Description:

Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

From: Molly Tafoya [molly.tafoya@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:33 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

In Support of SB 232

Aloha,

My name is Molly Tafoya and I support SB 232. First of all, mahalo to Senator Hee and to the entire State Senate for taking on this legislation. It is an issue of great importance to us all regardless of our stance and I am deeply grateful that it is being afforded the dignity of a hearing.

I grew up in Kaneohe and was raised by my single mother and countless hanai aunties, uncles, cousins. From an early age, I was taught the value of 'ohana. I am writing this letter because all families should be treated equally.

My family is like so many other families—Nana taking care of all the kids and buying new slippers every time we busted another pair. Mom working two jobs just to make ends meet; of cousins bring hundreds of leis to graduation, uncles teaching me how to boogie board, and all of the aunties urging me to dance hula. Growing up, the sexual orientation of my family members did not change my love or respect for them. We will always be a family.

After graduating from college on the mainland, I moved to San Francisco and began working on the No on Prop 8 campaign. I was moved by the injustice being inflicted upon families that looked like mine. Prop 8 was passed by a simple majority and resulted in my friends and family losing their fundamental right to marry. In that aftermath, I was shocked at how ugly California became and I longed for aloha spirit in our discourse. I am so honored to fight for equality here in California, but every day, I miss Hawai'i and the aloha spirit embodied in the mutual respect for one another and in the genuine love and compassion we share for our fellow Hawaiians.

A year ago, I returned home to be near family and was fortunate enough to work with the Equality Hawaii coalition to pass SB 444. I was heartbroken when Governor Linda Lingle refused to sign this crucial piece of legislation. But I am heartened by the steadfast commitment of fierce advocates and our leaders in Honolulu to bring this issue to a just close.

This is not a controversial vote. This is not a difficult choice to make. Voting in support of SB 232 is a vote for equality and fairness for my family and yours.

I choose to stand on the side of equality and fairness and I invite you to join me.

With respect and aloha,

Molly Tafoya

322 Guerrero Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

--

Molly J. Tafoya

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:35 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: lt@acluhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: 1.25.11.pdf

Testimony for JDL 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM SB232

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Laurie Temple
Organization: ACLU of Hawaii
Address: P.O. Box 3410 Honolulu, HI 96801
Phone: (808) 522-5905
E-mail: lt@acluhawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:



VIA EMAIL: JDLtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: *Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 232,
Relating to Civil Unions*

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 444, HD1, Relating to Civil Unions because it represents a substantial step forward toward ensuring that gay and lesbian couples are afforded equal treatment under the law.

- **Civil Unions are an important step towards marriage equality**

The ACLU of Hawaii commends those members of the Senate, who, by supporting this bill, have recognized that it is just and appropriate to extend more protections to same-sex couples than those currently provided under Hawaii law. S.B. 232 will further extend rights same-sex couples in several significant ways. To identify a few, current Hawaii law does not permit same-sex couples to adopt jointly a child in a single court proceeding. Current law also fails to protect members of a same-sex couple in the event the couple chooses to separate — there are no provisions in the law for judicial dissolution of the relationship or for support of a former partner. Additionally, adopting this law would provide a vehicle for private employers to offer health benefits to same-sex couples.

The ACLU of Hawaii strongly supports the current bill; however, we want to be clear that our ultimate goal is to obtain full marriage equality for same-sex couples. Marriage is a unique legal status that is conferred and recognized by governments all over the world. Marriage brings with it a multitude of reciprocal obligations, rights, responsibilities and protections. In addition, marriage is a cultural institution, one that conveys to all the level of love and commitment between two people. Civil unions are not, and cannot be, the same as marriage because they create a separate institution for same-sex couples. As history has taught us, separate is never truly equal. Thus, the ACLU of Hawaii will continue to press the Legislature for full marriage equality in the future.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

Chair Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
and Members Thereof
January 25, 2011
Page 2 of 2

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

From: jim@jameshochberglaw.com
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:36 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB 232 and recommending amendments
Attachments: 2011 session SB232 Amendments.doc

Please accept this modification as my testimony. The red font is what I am suggesting be added. Otherwise, SB232 is unacceptable to me as proposed.

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.

SECTION 1. The intent of this measure is to recognize civil unions in Hawaii. By establishing the status of civil unions in our State, it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage under chapter 572, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

CIVIL UNION

§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agent" means the person or persons appointed as agents by the department of health pursuant to section 572-5.

"Civil union" means a union between two individuals established pursuant to this chapter.

"Partner" means an individual who is a party to a civil union established pursuant to this chapter.

§ -2 Eligibility to enter into a civil union. A person shall be eligible to enter into a civil union only if the person is:

- (1) Not a partner in another civil union, a spouse in a marriage, or a party to a reciprocal beneficiary relationship pursuant to chapter 572C;
- (2) At least eighteen years of age; and
- (3) Not related to the other proposed partner in the civil union, as provided in section -3.

§ -3 Civil unions void; when. A civil union shall be void between the following persons: parent and child, grandparent and grandchild, two siblings, aunt and nephew, aunt and niece, uncle and nephew, uncle and niece; persons who stand in relation to each other of ancestor and descendant of any degree whatsoever.

§ -4 Solemnization; license to perform; refusal to join persons in a civil union. (a) A civil union shall become valid only upon completion of a solemnization by a person licensed in accordance with this section.

(b) Any judge or retired judge, including a federal judge or judge of another state who may legally join persons in chapter 572 or a civil union, may solemnize a civil union. Any ordained or licensed member of the clergy may solemnize a civil union. Solemnization may be entirely secular or may be performed according to the forms and usages of any religious denomination in this state. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any person authorized to perform

solemnizations of marriages or civil unions to perform a solemnization of a civil union, and no such authorized person who fails or refuses for any reason to join persons in a civil union shall be subject to any fine or other penalty for such failure or refusal.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any person authorized to perform solemnizations of chapter 572 or civil unions to perform a solemnization of a civil union, and no such authorized person who fails or refuses for any reason to join persons in a civil union shall be subject to any fine or other penalty for such failure or refusal.

(d) No agent may solemnize a civil union; nor may any assistant or deputy of the agent solemnize a civil union.

(e) No person shall perform solemnization of a civil union without first having obtained a license from the department of health. The department of health shall issue licenses to solemnize civil unions in the same manner as it issues licenses pursuant to chapter 572. The department of health may revoke or suspend a license to solemnize civil unions. Any penalties or fines that may be levied or assessed by the department of health for violation of chapter 572 shall apply equally to a person licensed to solemnize civil unions.

(f) Religious Liberty. No individual, corporation, entity, association, educational institution, or society shall be

penalized or denied benefits under the laws of this state or any subdivision of this state, in connection with, but not limited to, the application of laws addressing discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations, laws pertaining to licensing, government grants, contracts or tax-exempt status, or for otherwise refusing to provide services, employment, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges related to the solemnization of any civil union, for refusing to solemnize any civil union, or for refusing to treat as valid any civil union, where the application of such laws or refusal conflicts with and/or would cause that individual, corporation, entity, association, educational institution, or society to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs.

§ -5 Applicants for civil union; license required; limitations. (a) No persons may be joined in a civil union in this State unless both partners have:

- (1) Met the requirements of section -2;
- (2) Complied with sections -6 and, if applicable, section -7; and
- (3) Been issued a license by the agent in the judicial circuit in which a civil union is to be solemnized or in which either person resides, which license shall bear the certification of the agent that the persons named therein have met the requirements of section

-2 and have complied with sections -6 and, if applicable, section -7.

(b) The license, when certified by the agent, is sufficient authority for any person authorized to perform a civil union solemnization in this State to join the persons in a civil union; provided that the solemnization is performed not more than thirty days after the date of issuance. The license shall become void thirty days after issuance.

§ -6 Application for license for persons who wish to enter into a civil union; fee. (a) No license for a civil union may be issued by the agent until both applicants have appeared before the agent and applied for a license. The application for the license shall be completed in its entirety, dated, signed, and sworn to by each applicant and shall state each applicant's full name, date of birth, birthplace, residence, social security number, whether single, widowed, or divorced, and whether the applicant is under the supervision or control of a conservator or guardian. If the application is signed and sworn to by the applicants on different dates, the earlier date shall be deemed the date of application. The agent shall issue a copy of this chapter to any person applying for a license.

(b) The fee for a license to enter into a civil union shall be an amount equal to the amount prescribed in section

572-5, and all amounts collected by the agent as application fees under this chapter shall be retained or remitted and apportioned in the same manner as prescribed in section 572-5.

§ -7 Persons under control of conservator or guardian.

(a) No civil union license may be issued to any applicant under the supervision or control of a conservator or guardian, appointed in accordance with chapter 560, unless the written consent of the conservator or guardian, signed and notarized, is filed with the agent.

(b) Any person who enters into a civil union without the consent provided for in subsection (a) shall acquire no rights, by that civil union, in the property of any person who was under the control or supervision of a conservator or guardian at the time the civil union was entered into.

§ -8 Record of solemnization; reported by whom; affidavit; evidentiary weight of certificate or affidavit. (a)

Each person who solemnizes a civil union shall certify upon the civil union license certificate the fact, time, and place of the solemnization of the civil union and return the license to the agent within three business days following the solemnization of the civil union, or as may otherwise be prescribed by the department of health.

(b) If any person who has solemnized a civil union fails to return the certificate to the agent as required under

subsection (a), the partners joined in a civil union may provide the agent with a notarized affidavit attesting to the fact that they were joined in a civil union and stating the date and place of the solemnization of the civil union. Upon the recording of that affidavit by the agent, the civil union of the partners shall be deemed to be valid as of the date of the solemnization of the civil union stated in the affidavit.

(c) The certificate required by subsection (a) or an affidavit recorded pursuant to subsection (b) shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

§ -9 Benefits, protections, and responsibilities.

Partners to a civil union lawfully entered into pursuant to this chapter shall have all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any other source of civil law, as are granted to those who contract, obtain a license, and are solemnized pursuant to chapter 572.

However, nothing in this act shall be construed by any court, tribunal, administrative agency or governmental entity to extend the definition or title of "marriage" to civil unions, nor shall the passage of this act be construed or interpreted as a deviation from the definition of marriage as being solely a union between one man and one woman.

§ -10 Civil unions performed in other jurisdictions.

All **civil** unions between two individuals not recognized under section 572-3 shall be recognized as civil unions provided that the relationship meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter."

SECTION 3. Section 572-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

~~["**§572-1.6** Private solemnization not unlawful. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to render unlawful, or otherwise affirmatively punishable at law, the solemnization of same-sex relationships by religious organizations; provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any of the benefits, burdens, or obligations of marriage under the laws of Hawaii."]~~

SECTION 4. A party to a civil union shall be included in any definition or use of the terms "spouse", "family", "immediate family", "dependent", "next of kin", and other terms that denote the spousal relationship, as those terms are used throughout the law **except to the extent that those terms refer uniquely to the union of marriage between one man and one woman.**

SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

From: Scott Foster [fosters005@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:40 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony supporting SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard

Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011

HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support the passage of SB232.

This is important to me and my family and friends and is only fair and equitable.

Sincerely,

Scott Foster
3050 Kahaloa Place
Honolulu
808-988-0555

SCOTT FOSTER
3050 Kahaloa Place
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96822
Phone - 808-988-0555
Skype: dagooche
fosters005@Hawaii.rr.com
<http://www.scottfoster.org/>

From: Daniel Kamalu-Gruppen [danielkg@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:41 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: **Committee on Judiciary**

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard
Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011

HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support the passage of SB232.

[Daniel Kamalu-Gruppen]
[47-168 Iuiu St. Kaneohe HI]



Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus 1050 Ala Moana Blvd #D-26, Honolulu, HI 96814 Email: hidemocraticwomenscaucus@yahoo.com

January 25, 2011

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair, Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

Re: SB 232 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS
(10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 25, 2011, Room 016)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing me to present testimony today, in strong support of SB 232 which extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus strongly supports this measure which extends the rights of married couples to partners in a civil union.

Establishing a civil union provision is a big step to ending the disparity between the rights of opposite-sex married couples and those of same-sex couples. It is a step toward the goal of treating people equally under the law, as required by our Constitution. SB 232 extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

Because there is no legal recognition for same-sex couples, many are unable to obtain employer sponsored health insurance for their partners, a benefit that is given to same-sex married couples. There are other economic benefits, given to married couples, such as in the filing of federal income taxes that same-sex families are unable to obtain. Enacting a civil union provision will help end this unequal treatment by government agencies and employers.

We urge the committee to pass SB 232 to extend rights to partners in a civil union so that equal protection under the law will not be reserved for some, but is available for all.

From: Gary Okino [garyokino@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:43 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony on SB 232
Attachments: Hawaii Legislators Misled on Equal Protection.doc

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. Takes effect 1/1/2012.

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am appealing to you to not pass the proposed civil unions law, SB 232. In stating my case, I will focus on just two of the many important points.

1. Impact on our children
2. Civil Unions is Same Sex Marriage

Although it is morally wrong, I will not say anything more about the “religious argument.”

Although proponents claim that it’s about equal protection, there are ample arguments to clearly show that it is not. Also, the Hawaii Supreme Court has already ruled that...

1. Marriage Law Does Not Violate the Equal Protection Clause
2. Same-sex Marriage is Not a Fundamental Right

Equal Protection for our Children

The well-being and rights of children must not be set aside based on the false excuse of “equal protection” for two adults who have the privilege of consenting to the relationship whether there is a civil unions law or not. The well-being of children is of paramount importance to every society, not the romantic interests of adults.

Legislators should remember that each child is a person, and thus has inherent and inalienable rights equal to those of any other person, including the right to “the pursuit of happiness.”

Children must not be denied “equal protection of the laws” or discriminated against simply because “age” is not specifically mentioned in the equal protection clause. Yet, you will be overlooking the interests of children in your efforts to adopt a civil unions law. Civil unions is government action that discriminates against children by advancing in that it is a major obstruction to their pursuit of happiness.

One only needs to take a look at what’s happening in Massachusetts which has had a same sex marriage law imposed upon it by the courts in 2003 to see how their children are being jeopardized.

Civil Unions is Same Sex Marriage

Gay marriage proponents have openly stated that civil unions is just a stepping stone to same sex marriage. If this isn’t so, then why was the language of our marriage law duplicated in the civil unions bill?

In every state in the nation where they have passed a civil unions law, the next step was to either have the courts declare same sex marriage because of the civil unions law or the legislature has moved to the next step of gay marriage within 2-5 years of the adoption of civil unions.

Take a look at what’s happened in Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and California.

For a more detailed explanation and justifications for the points I raise, please see the attached article by Joe Tully of the Hawaii Family Coalition.

Again, I am urging you, for the sake of Hawaii and for our children, please do not enact the proposed civil unions legislation.

Aloha and God bless you...

Gary Okino
Former City Councilmember

Hawaii Legislators Misled on Equal Protection

By Joe A. Tully, 1/12/2010 9:08:05 AM

Hawaii legislators face many claims and demands by homosexuals advocating for civil unions and HB 444. Many of those claims and demands misrepresent the facts.

Homosexual Advocates Want Legislators Cowering, Not Thinking

One communication to all legislators demanded, “step up to your constitutional duty to provide equal protection.”

Then, it labeled any who might even consider amending it as cowards suffering from “shrinking spine syndrome” who are trying to hide from their “constitutional duty.”

Homosexual advocates are apparently counting on that label to intimidate legislators and their staffs so they will not find the misrepresentations wrapped within the half truths.

Hawaii Supreme Court: Marriage Law Does Not Violate the Equal Protection Clause

The Hawaii constitution does provide that “equal protection of the laws” shall not be denied based on gender.

In 1996, the First Circuit Court ruled that Hawaii’s law limiting marriage to a man and a woman (HRS § 572-1) violated the equal protection clause of the Hawaii Constitution.

In 1998, the marriage amendment was ratified by the voters of Hawaii.

In 1999, the Hawaii Supreme Court reversed the 1996 First Circuit ruling and ruled

- that Hawaii’s equal protection clause no longer applies to Hawaii’s marriage law (HRS § 572-1) because of the 1998 marriage amendment,
- that, as a result, Hawaii’s marriage law no longer violates the equal protection clause; and
- that Hawaii’s law limiting marriage to “a man and a woman” is constitutionally valid and must be given full force and effect. All emphases added.

If there is any duty, it is the duty to follow and uphold that law. Legislators have no constitutional duty to remedy a “flaw” that does not exist. They certainly have no duty to change or supplement a valid law.

Homosexual advocates withhold those 1999 Supreme Court rulings from legislators and everyone else. Somehow, they find it appropriate to tell legislators about a favorable but overruled 1996 court order (First Circuit), but withhold from legislators the fact that that very order was reversed by the Hawaii Supreme Court in 1999.

In doing so, they are intentionally misrepresenting the law to legislators.

Hawaii Supreme Court: Same-sex Marriage is Not a Fundamental Right

Homosexual advocates declare, “marriage is a fundamental right.” But they withhold the fact that the courts have ruled that that statement does not include same-sex marriage.

For the Hawaii Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, a fundamental right is one so rooted in the nation’s “traditions and [collective] conscience” as to be ranked “fundamental.” Denying such a right would violate the “fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions.”

Homosexual advocates withhold the fact that “marriage is a fundamental right” does not include same-sex marriage. They withhold from everyone the fact that when the U.S. Supreme Court first declared “marriage is a fundamental right”, the Court made it clear they were referring to opposite-sex marriage.

Homosexual advocates withhold from everyone the fact that the Hawaii Supreme Court also ruled that the fundamental right to marriage extends only to opposite-sex couples. Advocates withhold the fact that the court held “there is no fundamental right to marriage for same-sex couples.”

Even Constitutional Rights Are Not Absolute

Every state has the right, the authority, and even the duty to create laws and regulations that protect or advance the health, safety, welfare, and morals of society.

Even constitutional rights are not absolute. Even constitutional “rights” are often limited in order to preserve or advance the health, safety, welfare, and morals of society.

For example,

- **Freedom of speech is not absolute.** One cannot yell “fire” in a crowded theater. And laws prohibiting obscene speech, defamation, and inciting illegal action are constitutionally valid despite the general freedom of speech “guaranteed” by the constitution.
- **Freedom of religion is not absolute.** Although freedom of belief is absolute, religious practice can be regulated if it happens as the result of a generally applied regulation of a particular behavior (use of peyote, e.g.).
- **Equal Protection is not absolute.** Equal protection does not mean simply “equal” or “the same.” Prohibiting discrimination does not mean “no differences at all.”

The Hawaii Supreme Court has stated it this way:

“[E]qual protection does not mandate that all laws apply with universality to all persons; the State ‘cannot function without classifying its citizens for various purposes and treating some differently from others.’ ” Underlining added.

Certain differentiation is almost always inappropriate (racial discrimination, e.g.), and certain differentiation is appropriate (age differentiation for voting and driving, and gender differentiation for restrooms and jail cells, e.g.).

Hawaii's law limiting marriage to "a man and a woman" does not violate the equal protection clause, is constitutionally valid, and must be given full force and effect.

Legislators Are Ignoring the Well-being of Children

Some legislators excuse their support for HB 444 and civil unions by saying it is "my constitutional duty", just as homosexual advocates have told them.

They make that claim despite the Hawaii Supreme Court declaring 10 years ago that Hawaii's law limiting marriage to "a man and a woman" does not violate the equal protection clause, is constitutionally valid, and must be given full force and effect.

Legislators definitely have a duty to uphold "equal protection of the laws" for all persons in Hawaii. However, legislators supporting HB 444 are definitely ignoring the negative effect that civil unions will have on the lives of children in adoptions or custody battles because those in civil unions are granted "the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities" as those in a marriage.

The well-being and rights of children with no say in the relationship should not be brushed aside with the empty excuse of "equal protection" for two adults who have the privilege of consenting to the relationship or not. The romantic interests of adults should not trump the well-being of children. The well-being of children is of paramount importance to every society.

Society's continued existence depends on two vital needs being met. Enough babies must be born, and they must develop successfully. Experience and biology tell us babies are born as the result of sexual relations between people of the opposite sex. And research data tells us that children are safest and develop best in families based on the marriage of their own father and mother.

Supporting and encouraging marriage of opposite sex couples is therefore essential to advancing society's paramount interest – the well-being of children. The more opposite sex couples that marry, the greater the number of children that will be born to a father and mother already committed to one another and to the children they bear.

Declaring that same-sex couples may form legally recognized civil unions that are the functional equivalents of marriage, with "the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities" as marriage, ignores facts about what is the best environment for children and places them in an environment with greater risks.

It does so because:

- the civil unions bill sets up the adoption of children into families that will not include the child's father and mother;
- children raised by homosexuals are 4 to 10 times more likely to develop homosexual or bisexual preferences than children raised by heterosexuals;
- recognizing civil unions is likely to lead to school curricula that will seek to normalize non-heterosexual behavior and relationships;
- teaching children that all sexual- and gender-related behaviors are equally desirable will increase the number of children who engage in those behaviors;

- extensive research shows that individuals who engage in homosexual behaviors are more likely to suffer from psychiatric disorders, abuse alcohol and drugs, attempt suicide, experience domestic violence and sexual assault, and are at increased risk for chronic diseases, AIDS, and shortened life spans.
- a same-sex couple does not provide the distinctive qualities and the complementary natures of a male and female parent.

See articles by clinical and forensic psychologist Dr. Trayce Hansen, http://www.drtraycehansen.com/Pages/writings_notinthebest.html

Mothers and fathers simply aren't interchangeable. Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father. The same would be true for two men trying to be a good mother. One-sex parenting, whether by a single parent or a homosexual couple, deprives children of the full range of parenting offered by dual-sex couples.

Privacy considerations already provide that relations between consenting adults are not a matter for government regulation. Freedom of belief does mean that participants in those relationships may freely believe such a relationship is best for them. It also means that society is free to believe it is not in the best interests of children or society. Society has no obligation to share in the views of any believers.

More importantly, society has no obligation to place children into an environment that: will not include the child's own father and mother; does not provide the child with the complementary care of the opposite sexes; does not provide both gender models; and will lead to a greater percentage of children adopting a same-sex or bisexual lifestyle, with its higher rates of physical and mental disorders and even shortened lives. It would appear society has a duty to help children avoid an environment with such circumstances.

Legislators have a greater duty to protect those who cannot protect themselves, those who have no say and no vote, who cannot even understand the issues and frame the arguments to defend themselves.

Those who are defenseless need someone to speak up for them and to protect them from harm. Those who ignore the needs of those who are defenseless and place them where they are at greater risk will certainly be held accountable by others, not only at the ballot box, but by higher authority.

Legislators should remember that each child is a person, and thus has inherent and inalienable rights equal to those of any other person, including the right to "the pursuit of happiness", even if they cannot vote quite yet.

Children cannot be denied "equal protection of the laws" or discriminated against simply because "age" is not specifically mentioned in the equal protection clause. Yet children's interests are being completely ignored in the push for civil unions. The civil unions bill would be government action that does discriminate against children by advancing that which works against their pursuit of happiness.

Voters should call their legislators to make sure:

- they are getting the real facts and will uphold the law;
- they know that voters expect them to put the well-being of children first; and
- “they know that voters know” there is no constitutional duty to meddle with Hawaii’s valid marriage law – and trampling on the rights and well-being of children in doing so will not be accepted or tolerated by Hawaii’s voters.

Joe A. Tully is the president of Hawaii Family Coalition.

From: Pam DaGrossa [pam.dagrossa@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:44 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232

ATTN: Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard
Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011
HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee, Sen. Shimabukuro, Sen. Ihara, Sen. Gabbard, and Sen. Slom,

I strongly support the passage of SB232.

Pamela DaGrossa
50-02, SD 25
327 Keaniani St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Crystal Cathcart [crystalcathcart@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 3:45 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

ATTN: Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard

Sen. Sam Slom

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2011

HEARING TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support the passage of SB232. Being considered an equal member of society is what each and every person deserves. I raise a family, go to school, and pay taxes- just like so many other people. The love I share with someone else should be recognized legally as long as male/female marriages are recognized by the state. This is a civil rights issue and of utmost importance to Americans being able to move forward in an intelligent, loving way.

Crystal Maya Cathcart

Kailua, HI

**TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, (Chair)
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, (Vice Chair)
and the Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee**

**DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00am Room 016**

RE: SB 232 Relating To Civil Unions.

POSITION : STRONGLY OPPOSE

My name is Fetu Kolio, and a Community Resident of the State Of Hawaii, I am Strongly oppose to this measure because we already have Laws that are written into our State Of Hawaii constitution on Civil Rights.

And the facts are that discrimination on disability, and all other protective class, of Civil Rights Laws in the State Of Hawaii are never brought to a Court Of Law, in violations of our existing Civil Rights Laws, in the State Of Hawaii.

Yet, we are trying to say that by amending Civil Union in to the State Of Hawaii, Constitution Civil Rights Laws, will put Civil Union before all other existing Civil Rights Laws in the State Of Hawaii.

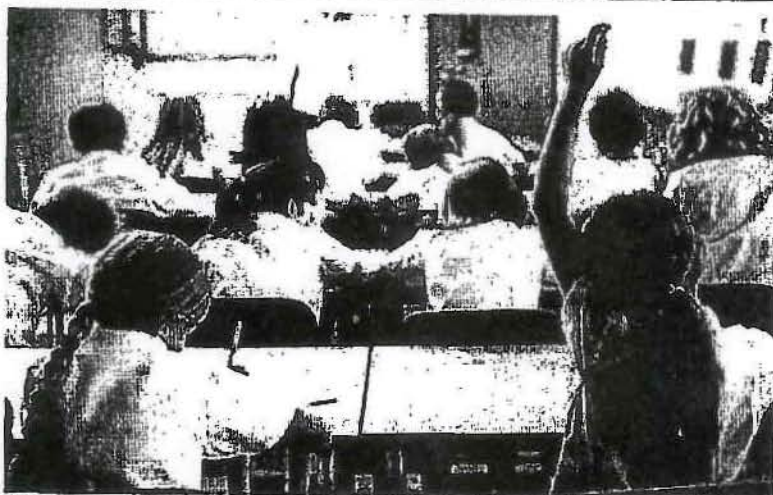
Thank You for the opportunity to testify.

Fetu Kolio, (Community Resident)


The Telegraph

'Gay lessons' in maths, geography and science

Children are to be taught about homosexuality in maths, geography and science lessons as part of a Government-backed drive to "celebrate the gay community".



The lesson plans, spread across the curriculum, will be offered to all schools, which can choose whether or not to make use of them Photo: GETTY



By Jasper Copping (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/jasper-copping/>)

9:00PM GMT 22 Jan 2011

Lesson plans have been drawn up for pupils as young as four, in a scheme funded with a £35,000 grant from an education quango, the Training and Development Agency for Schools.

The initiative will be officially launched next month at the start of "LGBT History Month" – an initiative to encourage teaching about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual issues.

The lesson plans, spread across the curriculum, will be offered to all schools, which can choose whether or not to make use of them.

But critics last night called the initiative a poor use of public money which could distract from the teaching of "core" subjects.

Among the suggestions are:

EC spent £124k on gay activists' conference

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/8098792/European-Commission-spent-124000-on-gay-activ>

UK overseas aid spent on coffee and dancing

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/8261809/Where-our-overseas-aid-goes-salsa-in-Cambridge-cc>

gay lessons' in maths, geography and science - Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8275937/Gay-le...>

Canterbury is 'gay enough'

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/5629668/Canterbury-is-sufficiently-gay-council-inspector>)

Maths – teaching statistics through census findings about the number of homosexuals in the population, and using gay characters in scenarios for maths problems;

Design and technology – encouraging pupils to make symbols linked to the gay rights movement;

Science – studying animal species where the male takes a leading role in raising young, such as emperor penguins and sea horses, and staging class discussions on different family structures, including same-sex parents;

Geography – examining the transformation of San Francisco's Castro district in the 1960s from a working-class Irish area to the world's first "gay neighbourhood", and considering why homosexuals move from the countryside to cities;

Languages – using gay characters in role play scenarios, and teaching "LGBT vocabulary".

The lesson plans, written by teachers and backed by the Department for Education, will be available for schools to download from the Schools Out website.

For younger children, the plans will suggest using images of same sex couples and also promoting books such as "And Tango Makes Three", which is about two male penguins raising a young chick, inspired by actual events at New York's Central Park Zoo.

The Schools Out organisation, which runs the month-long event, declares on its website that the aim is to "celebrate the lives and achievements of the LGBT community" and "encourage everyone to see diversity and cultural pluralism as positive forces".

However, Craig Whittaker, Conservative MP for Calder Valley and a member of the Education Select Committee, said: "This is nonsense.

We have enough problems in our country, where we are too far down the national comparative league tables in these core subjects.

"Teachers should concentrate on teaching the core subjects, so we become the best at those again. I don't see how introducing LGBT themes into those subjects is going to help.

"This is not about being homophobic, because there are other schemes around the education system which support the LGBT agenda."

John O'Connell, from the TaxPayers' Alliance, added: "Parents will wonder if this is the right use of funds and time in those subjects, particularly when we keep hearing how tight budgets are."

Sue Sanders, from Schools Out, defended the project.

She said: "These lessons are not big tub-thumping lessons about LGBT and nothing else.

"All we are attempting to do is remind teachers that LGBT people are part of the population and you can include them in most of your lessons when you are thinking inclusively."

David Watkins, a teacher involved in the scheme, said: "We don't want teachers to start out saying 'This is a gay lesson.' We just want lessons that don't ignore that there are lesbian and gay people who suffer from issues and problems.

"When you have a maths problem, why does it have to involve a straight family or a boyfriend and girlfriend? Why not two boys or two girls?"

"It's not about teaching about gay sex, it is about images and exposing children to the idea that there are other types of people out there."

A spokesman for the TDA said the funding was secured last March and that £20,000 was to go towards the lesson plans, with the rest spent mostly on the website.

A Department for Education spokesman added: "These are optional teaching materials. Ultimately, it is for heads and teachers to choose the most appropriate teaching resources to help promote equality and tolerance."

LGBT History Month started in 2005 and has previously focused more on raising awareness of prominent figures said to be homosexual.

A list on its website includes Hadrian, the Roman emperor, Michaelangelo, the Renaissance painter, Alan Turing, the mathematician, and Will Young, the singer.



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

**HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
Cases to June 30, 2008**

Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawaii

Chiyome L. Fukino
Director of Health

AIDS Reporting: As of June 30, 2008, 3,066 AIDS cases were reported to the Hawaii HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Department of Health. A total of 93 cases were reported during the past one-year period (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008). Of these, 78 (84%) cases were male and 15 (16%) cases were female. These cases were reported from Honolulu County (64, 69%), Hawaii County (14, 15%), Maui County (13, 14%), and Kauai County (2, 3%). Among these 93 reported cases, 37 cases were diagnosed during this period: 32 (86%) males, 5 (14%) females. The majority of these cases were diagnosed in Honolulu County (29, 78%). This semi-annual report contains AIDS demographic data for reported cases by year (page 2), by county (page 3), and by race/ethnicity (page 4).

HIV Reporting: The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) has issued new reporting requirements on March 13, 2008, for healthcare providers and laboratories to include the patient's name for all cases of HIV infection. This includes individuals who were diagnosed previously in Hawaii or elsewhere and those who are newly diagnosed. The new requirements for named HIV reporting are part of recent changes to the Hawaii State Administrative Rules, Chapter 156, Communicable Disease Reporting. The earlier code-based HIV reporting no longer exists.

AIDS Diagnosis in Hawaii

Figure 1. Hawaii AIDS Cases for four time periods, 2000 - 2007

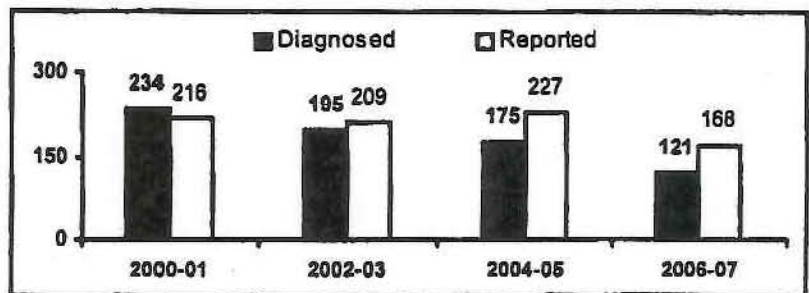


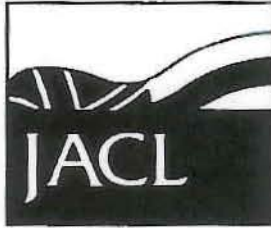
Figure 1 shows the number of Hawaii AIDS diagnoses (left bar) and reported cases (right bar) for four time periods from 2000 to 2007. AIDS cases are reported long after they are diagnosed. Due to reporting delay, the numbers of diagnosed and reported cases do not match for each time period. The number of AIDS diagnoses decreased from 234 in 2000-2001 period to 121 in 2006-2007 period. The increased number of reported cases in the periods from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007 is a result of active surveillance and many unreported cases were discovered during these periods. Some of these reported cases were diagnosed in 2000-2001 or earlier.

Table 1. Demographics of Hawaii AIDS Diagnosis, 2000 - 2007

Characteristics	2000-01	2002-03	2004-05	2006-07	1982-2007	
	N = 241 (%)	N = 201 (%)	N = 154 (%)	N = 121 (%)	N = 3,048 (%)	
Gender	Male	209 86.7	174 86.6	138 89.6	102 84.3	2,792 91.7
	Female	32 13.3	27 13.4	16 10.4	19 15.7	254 8.3
Risk	MSM	155 64.3	120 59.7	94 61	66 54.5	2,205 72.4
	IDU	21 8.7	15 7.5	8 5.2	22 18.2	233 7.6
	MSM/IDU	12 5.0	14 7	12 7.8	6 5	216 7.1
	Hetero	25 10.4	15 7.5	9 5.8	4 3.3	171 5.6
	Other/Unkn.	28 11.6	37 18.4	31 20.1	23 19	221 7.3
Age	<13	1 0.4	1 0.5	0 0	0 0	17 0.6
	13-19	1 0.4	1 0.5	2 1.3	1 0.8	12 0.4
	20-29	17 7.1	18 9	13 8.4	6 5	371 12.2
	30-39	88 36.5	67 33.3	43 27.9	33 27.3	1,254 41.2
	40-49	87 36.1	68 33.8	59 38.3	47 38.8	955 31.4
	>49	47 19.5	46 22.9	37 24	34 28.1	437 14.3
County	Honolulu	161 66.8	154 76.6	108 70.1	93 76.9	2,212 72.6
	Hawaii	30 12.4	18 9	21 13.6	12 9.9	392 12.9
	Maui	38 15.8	21 10.4	19 12.3	12 9.9	311 10.2
	Kauai	12 5.0	8 4	6 3.9	4 3.3	131 4.3

Please forward any questions and comments to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, 3627 Kilauea Avenue, Suite 306, Honolulu, HI 96816, Phone: (808) 733-9010, Fax: (808) 733-9015. This report is available at this website:

http://www.hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/aboutus/prg-aids/aids_rep/index.html



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

PHONE: 523-8464 EMAIL: honolulu@jacl.org

Working For A Greater America

Board Members

Trisha Y. Nakamura
President

Liann Ebesugawa
1st Vice President

Shawn Benton
2nd Vice President

Michael Murata
Treasurer

Sean Ibara
Secretary

Travis Agustin

Susan Arnett

Alphonso Braggs

David Forman

Linda Ichiyama

Craig Jerome

Nikki Love

Jacce Mikulanec

Karen Nakasone

Yoshie Tanabe

Jamie Yamagata

Legal Counsel

Benjamin Kudo

Advisory Council

Alliecyn Hikida-Tasaka

Clayton Ikei

William Kaneko

Colbert Matsumoto

Alan Murakami

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Hawai'i State Capitol – Room 016

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 232, Relating to Civil Unions

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

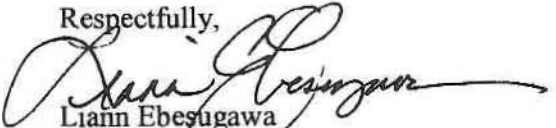
The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter stands in support of Senate Bill 232, which grants the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities granted under marriage to those individuals in a civil union.

JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization with over 20,000 members. Locally our organization has consistently supported efforts to provide equal rights to citizens of this state regardless of sexual orientation. In 1998, JACL was one of many groups who fought against the constitutional amendment granting the Legislature the right to define marriage as between a man and a woman. Now, over a decade later, we stand in strong support of the Legislature's efforts to provide rights to those that were excluded as a result of that amendment.

We affirm JACL's mission to "secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry." In 1963, JACL stood with Richard and Mildred Loving when they were denied the right to marry because of their race. Then, as now, JACL believes that inequity in the rights granted to married couples by a state is inconsistent with our state and federal constitution.

JACL thanks you for allowing us to testify in support of SB 232.

Respectfully,



Liann Ebesugawa
1st Vice-President



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
January 25, 2011

S.B. 232 – RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO **strongly supports** the purpose and intent of S.B. 232 which would extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

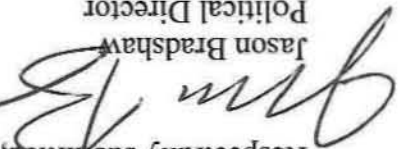
Same-sex couples deserve the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples who are married. Unfortunately, same-sex couples and their families are denied hundreds of rights and protections offered by the state of Hawaii. As a result, by refusing to legally recognize same-sex relationships, Hawaii among many other states deprive thousands of families the most important attributes of labor: the ability to take care of and provide for their family members.

The fact is many same-sex couples are our neighbors, police officers, firefighters, and teachers. Many keep us safe and educate our children. No longer should individuals who choose to have a same-sex relationship be discriminated against. In fact, it was not too long ago when interracial marriage was illegal in a number of states. Today, there are thousands of interracial marriages and no one thinks otherwise. It is time for Hawaii to move forward and accept civil unions to guarantee the same rights and protections as those who are married.

Without civil unions, the family truly suffers. When a partner in a same sex relationship passes away, their children and partner are not guaranteed their pensions and other survivor benefits. This is distressing and truly unnecessary. It undermines their financial health and well being. The child's quality of life completely changes for the worst, and while the loss of a parent is without a doubt devastating, at least a civil union would have protected the child and partner financially.

At the end of the day, same-sex couples are just like you and I. They have children; they love each other, and work with us day in and day out. Many protect us as police officers or firefighters, while some educate our children or perform complicated surgeries to save someone's life. In the end, we should not be afraid of change; but what we should be afraid of is that we have discriminated just like we have done in the past. It is time to say enough is enough, it is time to pass S.B. 232 and guarantee same-sex couples the same rights and benefits as those who are married. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Bradshaw
Political Director

David M. Ross, Jr.
77-6219A Kaunalumalu Drive
Holualoa, Hawaii 96725
services@rekona.com
808-322-7152

January 24, 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Via Email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Via Fax: 1-800-586-6659

Subject: SB232/HB444 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS
Testimony in OPPOSITION to Civil Unions and Same Sex Marriage
Hearing: Tuesday, January 25, 2011; 10:00 A.M.; Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

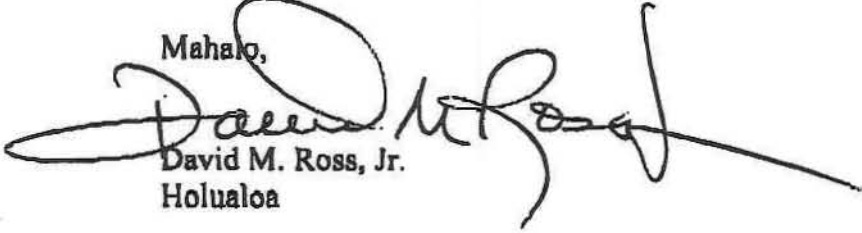
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB232. I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- **BENEFITS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE:**
 - The Reciprocal Beneficiary Law [**§572C-1**] *Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to extend certain rights and benefits which are presently available only to married couples to couples composed of two individuals who are legally prohibited from marrying under state law. [L 1997, c 383, pt of §1]*
 - Reciprocal beneficiaries have access to a number of rights and benefits on the state level, including inheritance rights, workers compensation, the right to sue for wrongful death, health insurance and pension benefits for state employees, hospital visitation, and healthcare decision making. Hawaii's RBR status also offers partners the option to jointly own property as "Tenants by the Entirety."
 - If further benefits need to be considered, they can be proposed as amendments to **§572C**
- **THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT HAS ALREADY RULED THAT SAME SEX MARRIAGE IS NOT A CIVIL RIGHT**

- The Supreme Court of Hawaii stated in 1993, "We do not believe that a right to same sex marriage is rooted in the traditions ... of our people... Neither do we believe that a right to same sex marriage is implicit. Accordingly we hold that the applicant couples do not have a fundamental right to same sex marriage..." (State v. Lewin 1993)
- **CIVIL UNIONS, AS DEFINED BY HB444 ARE THE SAME AS SAME SEX MARRIAGES:**
 - Benefits, protections, and responsibilities. Partners to a civil union lawfully entered into pursuant to this chapter shall have all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any other source of civil law, as are granted to those who contract, obtain a license, and are solemnized pursuant to chapter 572. (Chapter 572 is the MARRIAGE STATUTE.)
 - SECTION 4. A party to a civil union shall be included in any definition or use of the terms "spouse", "family", "immediate family", "dependent", "next of kin" and other terms that denote the spousal relationship, as those terms are used throughout the law.
- **THEREFORE, CIVIL UNIONS ARE JUST A STEPPING STONE TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE THROUGH THE COURTS, WHICH IN VERMONT AND CONNECTICUT MANDATED SAME SEX MARRIAGE BASED ON CIVIL UNION LAWS**
 - VERMONT: On September 1, 2009, the new marriage equality law became effective thereby discontinuing the separate status of "civil unions" in Vermont.
 - CONNECTICUT: In October 2008, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that the state's civil union law discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and is unconstitutional,
 - The Connecticut Civil Unions bill is exactly the same as HB 444

I write this letter with the hope that our Hawaii Legislature will be honest about this matter. If the issue were about truly about benefits, the reciprocal beneficiary law could be appropriately amended. The actual agenda in this matter is not hidden. The Homosexual Rights movement on the mainland has targeted Hawaii for a change in law as a means to validate their lifestyle. The voters in Hawaii have rejected Same Sex Marriage. The legislature is left with a challenge to honor the will of the people and uphold the long-standing tradition in Hawaii of marriage between one man and one woman. I urge you to oppose this bill and support the voice of 2/3rds of the voters in our State who have voted against it.

Mahalo,


David M. Ross, Jr.
Holualoa

3

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

**Testimony for Senate JDL Committee Hearing on SB232
Hearing date 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, 25 Jan 2011
Conference Room 016**

Cover + 1 page

4

Attention: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 AM

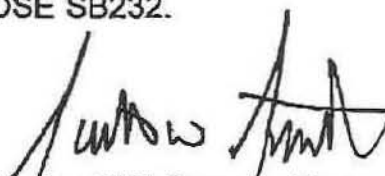
Conference Room 016

Subject: **OPPOSE SB232.**

Submitted by: Scott W. Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

1. I OPPOSE SB232. It is neither needed or desired in the State of Hawaii
2. Section 1 provides a statement of legislative intent; however, this intent is invalidated by the following sections, in particular:
 - a. Section 2-4 and 2-8, concerning "solemnization" of civil union. Given the stated intent in Section 1, there is no need or valid State purpose in providing for solemnization of civil union. It is sufficient to obtain a license. If parties to such unions desire third-party recognition or celebration of their license, they should do so privately without involvement of the State, its officers, or designees.
 - b. Section 2-9 provides that civil unions will have all the same effect as marriage, notwithstanding the statement of intent of section 1. Further, it is unclear as to the impact of this section on third parties – will all persons in the State of Hawaii be forced to recognize civil unions as equivalent to marriage under penalty of law such as anti-discrimination regardless of religious or other objection to the entire concept of "civil union"?
 - c. It is unclear what the difference between the status of a biological man and woman entering into a "civil union" and a "marriage" under Chapter 572. Direction is needed to prevent confusion between what appear to be legally indeterminable differences.
3. I respectfully request you OPPOSE SB232.



Scott W. Smart, citizen

2007-2009 Hawai'i-United States Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Health Risk Behavior Related to Bullying, Harassment and/or Suicide	High School					Middle School		
	2007 Hawaii	2009 Hawaii	notable change since 2007	2009 U.S. Ave.	compare Hawaii to U.S. Ave.	2007	2009	notable change since 2007
Strongly agree or agree that harassment and bullying by other students is a problem at their school	54.8%	51.2%	-	-	-	67.8%	63.3%	-
Had been hurt by having mean things said to them (things that hurt their feelings) while on school property one or more times during 12 months before the survey	-	-	-	-	-	52.5%	58.0%	-
Had been hurt by having mean things said to them (things that hurt their feelings) on the Internet or email during 12 months before the survey	23.8%	31.8%	+ 34% increase	-	-	19.9%	18.4%	-
Had been harassed because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual during the 12 months before the survey	13.3%	13.9%	-	-	-	10.3%	14.6%	+ 42% increase
Hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (during the 12 months before the survey)	9.5%	13.0%	+ 36% increase	9.8%	Hawaii 33% worse	5.2%	4.0%	- 23% decrease
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey)	7.8%	7.9%	-	5.0%	Hawaii 58% worse	7.1%	9.2%	+ 30% increase
Felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities during the 12 months before the survey)	31.8%	30.6%	-	26.1%	Hawaii 17% worse	26.1%	28.3%	-
Seriously considered attempting suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	18.5%	18.9%	-	13.8%	Hawaii 38% worse	17.5%	20.1%	+ 15% increase
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	17.0%	16.0%	-	10.9%	Hawaii 47% worse	9.9%	12.2%	+ 23% increase
Attempted suicide one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)	12.0%	12.8%	-	6.3%	Hawaii 100% worse	6.5%	6.6%	-
Suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse (during the 12 months before the survey)	3.0%	4.5%	+ 50% increase	1.9%	Hawaii 137% worse	6.5%	2.6%	- 60% decrease

Attention: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hearing: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 AM

Conference Room: 016

Subject: **OPPOSE SB232.**

Submitted by: William D. Heagney, Mililani, HI

Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I respectfully request you OPPOSE SB232 on the following basis:

- (1) There is no civil right to marriage or any other relationship.
- (2) All people have equal access to marriage and reciprocal beneficiary status. The restrictions imposed on one citizen are exactly the same as those imposed on another – equally.
- (3) Since there is no rationale why Hawaii needs a “civil union” bill and the people of Hawaii have made their opposition clear on many occasions, this bill should be stopped.
- (4) There is going to be additional cost to implement and manage this unneeded category of relationship. There is no money in the budget. Since there is no documented need, undocumented cost, and a deficit budget, the State cannot afford to implement this Bill.
- (5) The Bill is flawed and must be changed if it is going to be considered:
 - a. The Bill states that it is not the intent of the Bill to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage; however, the result will be to create marriage under the title of “civil union.” The Constitutional Amendment of 1998 directed to only reserve “marriage” – to mean the rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in marriage to couples comprised of one man and one woman. This bill violates the mandate of the citizens of Hawaii.
 - b. The citizens of Hawaii are aware that a Civil Union bill in Connecticut with similar wording as SB232 was challenged in the courts and the court mandated that civil unions with that same rights and benefits of marriage was marriage. All reference to the term “civil union” was deleted. If the intent of the legislature is not to redefine marriage, I recommend the following insertion in Section 1. “If any entity determines that this bill can be interpreted in any way to equate civil

unions with marriage, the bill will be immediately rescinded, cancelled, recalled, or invalidated.”

- c. Section -3 is discriminatory of some categories of participants eligible for reciprocal beneficiary status and not others. This would be a civil/equal rights discrimination issue if pursued. Do not establish a law that is discriminatory. Any relationship that does not qualify for marriage should be covered under reciprocal beneficiary. There is no need to create a new category of relationships that government must track. Government is already administratively overburdened. Relationships other than marriage have a much shorter duration than marriage and will needlessly increase the administration of government for no benefit to the state or society.
- d. Since this is a “civil union” arrangement there is no rationale for including any reference to solemnization. Delete paragraph -4 and all reference to solemnization.
- e. Since this is a “civil union” and not marriage, the citizens of Hawaii must not have their constitutional freedom of speech, association, or practice of religion infringed upon. There are some relationships that are unhealthy to the participants and society and to children trapped in those family situations. Just as Governor Abercrombie finds homelessness a civil sin, many individuals and organizations find sexual relationships endorsed by this civil union law as a sin against God’s natural law and no one should be forced to advocate, endorse or facilitate sin. Protections must be put in place to protect businesses, individuals and organizations from any acceptance or practices that are morally reprehensible to them. Add a sentence to the Bill: “No one will be forced to recognize or cater to civil unions if they are offensive to their or their organizational moral standards.”

I humbly request you OPPOSE this flawed bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Comm. on Education
Hearing: Mon., Jan. 24, 2011

1:15 p.m., Conf. Rm. 225

Testimony: Support Intent of SB8

Relating to Education: Implementing Legislation for the appointment of the Board of Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as an individual member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE).

I support the general intent of SB8: If the governor is to be held directly accountable for public education, then the governor should not be restricted in the selection of appointees, other than the senate confirmation process. How could a governor be directly accountable for any state agency if all candidates for directorships were limited to a handful of individuals pre-selected by a non-profit organization accountable to no one?

While I trust our current governor to select BOE appointees who sincerely want the best for Hawaii's public school students, we need to be mindful of how SB8 could be implemented by a governor with a different political ideology, one that is hostile towards working class families, civil rights and publicly funded services, such as education. Please ensure that the language in this bill provides sufficient safeguards to prevent proponents of private school vouchers, creationism as science, and regressive health education from taking control of the BOE.

I strongly support allowing the student member the opportunity to vote. I request that this committee also consider allowing the student member to continue receiving the \$100 per meeting stipend. I would hate to see economically disadvantaged students discouraged from applying for this position because they "cannot afford to".

While I have personally enjoyed the company and friendliness of all the military representatives sent to serve on the BOE during the past four years, I do not understand how public school students benefit by reserving a seat for a military representative on the BOE. Two elected members of the current BOE are former service members; I could see military service being one aspect of a BOE member, but it should not be the only reason a seat is occupied. Otherwise please consider reserving additional seats on the BOE for a Poet Laureate, Peace Activist and Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq.

State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large

Attention: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
CIVIL UNIONS TESTIMONY

SB 232 TESTIMONY (January 24, 2011)

I am writing to inform you of my opposition of HB232 that will equate Civil Unions with marriage.

My reasoning for this is that the issue still is about benefits for one's partner, not whether or not Civil Unions should be recognized at the same level of marriage.

Marriage cannot be the same as civil unions because it involves a commitment between a man and woman with the possibility of creating a family with a father and mother.

This is an honored tradition that should never be redefined in a society despite the pursuit of so-called "PROGRESS."

Allowing this to happen compromises a society's honored traditions, opening doors for more changes that are not meaningful, but detrimental to a society's existence which observes traditional morals.

Is it not true that marriage is already protected and defined between a man and woman in Hawaii? Then this issue to equate marriage with civil unions is simply mute, that the issue of benefits remains as the main issue, not to redefine marriage.

Please do not allow yourselves to be blinded by this issue of equating civil unions with marriage. I truly know that the issue was benefits for one's partner, not the creation of a new form of union.

Allowing our state to equate civil unions with marriage will not only displease our people, but lessens the trust that OUR CURRENT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES are not paying attention to the people when this issue of marriage was defined years ago...there are simply time honored traditions that cannot be changed within a society without going against the will of the people...and you as representatives should have heard the will of the people when marriage was upheld.

I know this may seem to be a tough subject, but, really it is clear if you realize the difference between benefits for one's partner and the tradition of marriage in a society; clearly benefits are negotiable, not marriage within our society.

May you clearly see the original issue where it all began, benefits for one's partner, and please honor the decision made years ago that marriage is between a man and woman, and therefor, equating it with civil unions between same sex couples is a contradiction, shaming all those involve and brings dishonor to the current Legislation.

Please see the importance in this matter, and uphold a decision that was already made in the past...really, equating civil unions to marriage is a mute subject...there are other pressing issues.

MAHALO for you time and allowing yourselves to represent Hawaii's people and honored traditions.

Sincerely,



David D. Ubaldo, 1417 Alexander Street #B1, Honolulu, HI 96822

SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions
Jan.25, 2011 Tuesday 10 Am Room #016

Dear Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

My Name is Pastor Virginia Domligan
The Prayer Center of the Pacific

Today I made time to come out from the trenches to testify to your committee with all humility of heart your decision in every bill that you sign that pass your committee and other committees how it effects society as a whole and individually. I will address the issue at hand SB 232 relating to Civil Union.

Allow me this brief moment to share the effects of the laws that passed through that touches lives in every part of society here in our beloved State of Hawaii. In 1970 a bill was passed for abortion with no restriction no parental notification. 52 Million abortions have been reported in America nobody knows the effect unless your in the trenches I am here to share first hand A 15 year old comes in just had an abortion the day before her boy friend paid the bill no parental notification she lays in the clinic as the doctor proceed to sucked out the fetus and left the pieces it in a tray for her eyes to see. 15 years old devastated crying without any comfort this is only one of the many we find in the trenches of this life because of laws we've passed. Addressing the issue at hand a young man lay's in the Hospital ashamed suffering dieing of full blown aids his life style choice was having sex with another man. Yes, his partner was at his bed side what pain and sorrow their family suffered there heart was heavy because of the choices that was made. The saddest day was the day of burial. How many more will we have to bury because the effects of choices. Can you not hear the voice of the people of Hawaii and there wise council for traditional marriage. By Passing SB 232 it's a step to legalizing same sex marriages you are extending the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. All of this benefits is entitled to those who are traditional married. Any benefits to those who choice to have a same sex partnership should be worked out on the Reciprocal benefit bill. This is not about civil rights it a matter of choice of a life style that will **effect my grandchildren when they are taught in Elementary school** that is all right to have two mommies or two daddies this will bring utter confusion being that they are nurtured with one daddy and one mommy in a traditional family since the beginning of society. Please I plead with you there are more important needs that has to be address this session my husband lost his job after 31 years because his company downsized. He went from corporate pay to minimum He pays \$400. a month for my dental and medical I minister in the prisons for 23 years I'm in the trenches visiting those who are sick, those who are bound by alcohol and drugs, raped, suffering hardship financially trying to make ends meet living here in Hawaii. Lets concentrate on the most important issues at hand. Please don't pass SB232 in your committee don't be swayed like the State of Massachusetts who started down this road only to legalize same sex marriage. Let there be no regrets in our beloved State of Hawaii which we the people have to pay for.

To: Senate Sgt. at Arms Office/Committee Clerk
(Room 002 State Capitol)

From: Bishop Carl E. Harris

Re: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB232, Relating to Civil Unions

2

Every time a civil union bill has been imposed on a state, demands for same-sex "marriage" have followed.

- Same-sex "marriage" activists can't convince the people to redefine marriage, so they are pursuing strategies like this.
- You can't talk about civil unions without talking about same-sex marriage because there really isn't any difference. **The goal is the same.** 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?

Civil unions (SB 232) are a desperate and dishonest attempt to force same-sex "marriage" on Hawaii.

As we've seen in California, not even constitutional amendments protecting marriage are safe from activist courts. **The people of Hawaii and the majority of our elected officials still support marriage as the union of one man and one woman.** If this isn't about undermining and redefining marriage, why would the language of the marriage law be used to create civil unions? I strongly oppose this bill and I sincerely appreciate your **NO VOTE on SB 232.**

Thank you,

Bishop Carl E. Harris

808-375-4950/ emmanuelte@aol.com



Senate Judiciary Committee,
Hawaii State Capitol Room 016
Hearing 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 25, 2011

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions

Dear Committee Members,

Hawaii Citizens for the Separation of State and Church has vigorously opposed discrimination in Hawaii since 1997.

Marriage discrimination is – and always has been – a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Marriage discrimination also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. We will focus on the latter violation first.

Marriage discrimination is the result of religious influence on government. Only churches, religious organizations, and religious persons have opposed marriage equality in Hawaii, with most clearly stating their beliefs that the "sanctity of marriage" is a "God-given right" that is reserved to "one man and one" woman. "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" is the common retort of religious conservatives.

HCSSC asserts that religion is entirely irrelevant to the discussion and must be ignored in matters of law under the Constitution.

Lemon v. Kurtzman is a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that established a three-pronged test, which requires that:

1. The government's action must have a secular legislative purpose;
2. The government's action must not have the primary effect of either advancing or inhibiting religion;
3. The government's action must not result in an "excessive government entanglement" with religion.

If any of these three restrictions are violated, the government's action is deemed unconstitutional. There is no secular purpose for limiting the full rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage to heterosexual couples.

We oppose SB 232 because civil unions would by law establish a lesser, second-class relationship status for homosexual couples. SB 232 harkens back to *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the disastrous U.S. Supreme Court decision that established the inexcusable doctrine of "separate but equal."

In 1954, on the matter of racial inequality, the Supreme Court overturned *Plessy* with a laudable decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, resulting in the diverse and integrated society we see today.

But the fight for freedom is not over. For as long as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) citizens are forced to remain on a lower rung of the societal ladder, we are not a free society. We are a society that discriminates to satisfy the views and dictates of religion. The Establishment Clause clearly prohibits the current state of affairs.

Fortunately, the Courts are beginning to see the light. In *Lawrence v Texas* the U.S. Supreme Court established a right of sexual privacy for consenting adults. In *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, the Federal Court struck down Proposition 8, a California voter initiative that sought to take away marriage rights for same-sex couples.

The congress of the United States recently voted to repeal the draconian act known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which excluded openly gay citizens from military service. The equally repugnant and indefensible "Defense of Marriage Act" will soon be repealed or declared unconstitutional by the Courts.

Five states (Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont) and the District of Columbia currently do not discriminate against same-sex couples seeking to marry. Various domestic partnerships and civil unions are currently available under laws in California, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Hawaii has a woefully inadequate program for registered "domestic partners."

As stated earlier, any law that limits governmental rights or benefits to heterosexual couples necessarily violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. This fact was clearly established in the *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* case, currently on appeal in the Federal Ninth Circuit.

If broadly interpreted, the *Perry* decision may overturn Article I, Section 23, of the Hawaii State Constitutional Amendment and require the State Department of Health to immediately begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We remain hopeful of this outcome.

SB 232 represents a cowardly half-measure; Civil Unions are not the equivalent of marriage and are thus unacceptable as a matter of law. Hopefully Marriage Equality will become law in Hawaii and the United States by order of the Courts.

In light of this impending outcome, we believe all legislators and government officials should act according their oath of office, which requires them to "uphold and defend" the Constitution.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Kahle
President

Attention: *Senator Clayton Hee*

SB 232 TESTIMONY (January 24, 2011)

I am writing to inform you of my opposition of HB232 that will equate Civil Unions with marriage.

My reasoning for this is that the issue still is about benefits for one's partner, not whether or not Civil Unions should be recognized at the same level of marriage.

Marriage cannot be the same as civil unions because it involves a commitment between a man and woman with the possibility of creating a family with a father and mother.

This is an honored tradition that should never be redefined in a society despite the pursuit of so-called "PROGRESS."

Allowing this to happen compromises a society's honored traditions, opening doors for more changes that are not meaningful, but detrimental to a society's existence which observes traditional morals.

Is it not true that marriage is already protected and defined between a man and woman in Hawaii? Then this issue to equate marriage with civil unions is simply mute, that the issue of benefits remains as the main issue, not to redefine marriage.

Please do not allow yourselves to be blinded by this issue of equating civil unions with marriage. I truly know that the issue was benefits for one's partner, not the creation of a new form of union.

Allowing our state to equate civil unions with marriage will not only displease our people, but lessens the trust that OUR CURRENT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES are not paying attention to the people when this issue of marriage was defined years ago...there are simply time honored traditions that cannot be changed within a society without going against the will of the people...and you as representatives should have heard the will of the people when marriage was upheld.

I know this may seem to be a tough subject, but, really it is clear if you realize the difference between benefits for one's partner and the tradition of marriage in a society; clearly benefits are negotiable, not marriage within our society.

May you clearly see the original issue where it all began, benefits for one's partner, and please honor the decision made years ago that marriage is between a man and woman, and therefor, equating it with civil unions between same sex couples is a contradiction, shaming all those involve and brings dishonor to the current Legislation.

Please see the importance in this matter, and uphold a decision that was already made in the past...really, equating civil unions to marriage is a mute subject...there are other pressing issues.

MAHALO for you time and allowing yourselves to represent Hawaii's people and honored traditions.

Sincerely,

David D. Ubaldo

David D. Ubaldo, 1417 Alexander Street #B1, Honolulu, HI 96822

818 Kaha Place
Kailua, HI 96734

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members

I am writing in opposition to SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions. Again, like last legislative session's HB 444, this measure circumvents the legal process established under the Hawai'i Reciprocal Beneficiaries Act of 1997 (RBA) which provides same sex couples similar benefits to married couples. While proponents argue otherwise, saying it is only a civil union issue, recently across this nation, similar legislation like SB 232, after its passage has eventually become an argument and legislation for legalized same sex marriages. Sadly, this tact is unfair, unethical and runs contrary to an open, honest debate to which your constituents expect from their elected officials regarding this matter. If RBA needs fixing to meet the needs of proponents of this bill, then together let's fix it. But don't use this proposed idea to redefine marriage for the majority of voters who a year ago marched at the State Capitol strongly opposing this idea.

As you know, this legislation was raised during last year's session as HB 444 and was passed at the last minute by the House at the expense of open debate. However, after listening to both sides of the issue, then Governor Lingle wisely vetoed this measure citing the need to put the matter to a vote because of the tremendous cultural, religious and community impact to its people. I recommend deferring this proposal and replacing this debate by letting the people decide by placing it on the ballot. This truly is the most equitable and fairest process for all to be heard on this matter, and not for just a few.

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 232. Mahalo.

Sincerely,


Mark B. Au

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL  HAWAII

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

FROM:
UNITE HERE Local 5 (Cade Watanabe)

COMPANY:
Hawaii State Legislature

DATE:
1/24/2011

FAX NUMBER:
808-586-6659

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING
COVER:
3

RE:
Written Testimony

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Written Testimony

SB 232, relating to Civil Unions

Hearing Date/Time:
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Rm. 016

ERIC GILL, FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
1516 SOUTH KING STREET, HONOLULU HI 96826

UNITE HERE! LOCAL 5 HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Monday, January 24, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Judiciary & Labor
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing nearly 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organizations full support for the intent of Senate Bill 232 relating to Civil Unions. But as this Legislature continues to convene discussion on this most important of issues, we would also humbly ask for consideration of Senate Bill 231 which would improve upon clarifying the intent and purpose of Senate Bill 232.

In sum, SB 232 is not about validating people's existence, nor is it about endangering social institutions. This bill is about economic justice, and the right of each of us to expect and receive fair treatment from our government.

Equality before the law is not a new concept. The notion that all people have a right to equal treatment from government is at the foundation of our democracy. It is the basic ideal that our government is expected to live up to. But in a society where our government has solemnly pledged to provide equal rights for all, we have failed to do so for some.

Equal rights and equal treatment for all is not just the right thing to do. It is key to bringing our society together, so we can work toward a common purpose. Our union has learned this, not from any book, but in practice.

Our union is an organization whose mission, role and existence is founded on the solidarity and concerted activity of our members. Our most fundamental task is to build unity and common purpose among our members. To do this, we must overcome divisions of all sorts that exist among our extended family. We need to bring people whose ancestors have been here for centuries together with those recently arrived from many countries. In order to have the power to protect any of our members, we must unite people of different religions, different languages, different skin colors, different traditions. And, different ways of living their private lives, and organizing their families.

In order for each person to commit to building our union, we have to fight for every person. Our members need to see us include everyone, for each individual to feel included.

That's why we fight for immigrant rights at the same time we fight for the rights of Native Hawaiians. We fight for equal treatment between men and women, between young and old, between races of people from all over the globe.

That's why we fight for the rights of those of us whose families are different, who have fallen in love differently. If we fail to fight for each, we undermine the unity and power of all.

Now is the time for Hawaii's legislature to take a stand. Bring us together. Care for all of us, equally.

Sincerely,



Eric Gill
Financial Secretary-Treasurer



Holly J. Huber

Phone: (808) 554-7692 • E-mail: hollyjhuber@gmail.com

Blog: honolulupropertytaxreform.wordpress.com

Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Hearing: Tuesday, January 25 @ 10 AM

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions

Aloha Senators:

I support Civil Unions because I support civil rights – for everyone! Hawaii’s current “reciprocal beneficiaries” law is woefully inadequate. It restricts the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) couples.

Hawaii is the most diverse state in the nation. It is an embarrassment that we can celebrate so many different cultures and still discriminate against LGBT individuals, couples and families.

Those who oppose this bill claim that Civil Unions are the equivalent of same-sex marriage. Like Civil Unions, same-sex marriage is separate and unequal. Even states that offer same-sex marriage cannot provide LGBT couples with the same rights as heterosexual couples due to the federal government’s Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Such discrimination is unconstitutional; DOMA will be repealed just as “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” was recently.

Opponents of SB232 wear IVote stickers. Judging by the past election: **THEY DON’T VOTE!** None of the supporters of HB444 were voted out of office. The people of Hawaii have spoken in favor of civil rights and in opposition to discrimination.

The fight against Civil Unions is being led by a discredited organization: the Hawaii Family Forum. In 2009, this so-called nonprofit violated its 501(c)(3) status for excessive lobbying and had to pay \$20,741 in taxes. The IRS continues to investigate this lobbying group – which has no charitable purpose – and may revoke their nonprofit status.

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission is also investigating the Hawaii Family Forum and its partner, the Hawaii Catholic Conference, for misreporting lobbying expenditures in the past legislative sessions.

It is wrong to lobby the Hawaii State Legislature under the auspices of a charitable organization. And it is wrong to deny people their civil rights. Please vote YES on SB232.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber

ROBERT K. MATSUMOTO
Attorney at Law
345 Queen St., Suite 701
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: (808) 585-7244
Facsimile: (808) 585-7284
Email: rkmbengoshi@hawaii.rr.com

No. of pages including this page: 4 (main text)

DATE: January 24, 2010

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

FACSIMILE NO. 586-6659

RE: Testimony on Bill Relating to Civil Unions, SB No.232
Date & Time of Hearing: January 25 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Dear Senators of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

I urge you to vote NO on SB No. 232 and NOT to pass the said Bill out of this Committee.

No matter how the relationship is couched in SB No. 232, THE SAID BILL IS SIMPLY A "MARRIAGE" between to 2 persons no less, or a pretext which will lead ultimately to marriage between a non-heterosexual couple. The effect of SB 232 is to destroy the nuclear family with the consequent destruction of society itself. This is so because marriage between a man and a woman, with its attendant benefits and obligations will be rendered meaningless, and SB No. 232 will encourage other relationships to the detriment of traditional marriage, i.e. between a man and a woman, which over millennia has proven to be the one true foundation of society.

The prescient words of Judge Walter Heen (dissenting judge in the landmark case of Baehr v. Lewin (later Miike), should serve as an admonition to this committee when it considers SB 232,

“This court should not manufacture a civil right which is unsupported by any precedent, and whose legal incidents – the entitlement of statutory benefits (conferred upon unmarried persons through a certification system) will reach beyond the right to enter into a legal marriage and overturn long standing public policy encompassing other areas of public concern. This decision will have far-reaching and grave repercussions on the finances and policies of the governments and industry of this state and all the other states in the country.”

The passage of SB No. 232 will have the following consequences, among other consequences, (this list is not exhaustive of a myriad of religious, moral, societal and economic considerations):

1. It will destroy the importance of marriage between a man and a woman as a social institution, thereby destroying the very fabric of society and civilization.

There have been numerous studies conducted to determine the effects on married couples, children and society at large where the institution of marriage has been weakened such as “no fault” divorce. The devastating impact on children has been noted especially. A strong correlation has been found between the family breakup and child homelessness, drug abuse among the young, the physical abuse and neglect of babies and children, high rates of teenage pregnancy and a continuing cycle of broken relationships. Clearly, once traditional marriage becomes marginalized or rendered irrelevant with the passage of SB 232, the seeds of destruction of society will have been sown.



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 3226
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801
PHONE: (808) 586-0255
FAX: (808) 586-0231

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, January 25th, 2011
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 016

Testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 232**, Relating to Civil Unions

Dear Chair Hee, Vice- Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of Senate Bill 232; a bill that grants the rights, responsibilities, benefits and protections currently only available to opposite gender couples.

Two years ago the legislature opened serious discussions on this issue. There has been a complete and robust debate in our community and all sides have been given the opportunity to express their views. During this time, the Iowa Supreme Court found that same gender couples should be granted equal rights under their state's law and only a month ago the Illinois Legislature extended equal rights via civil unions to same gender couples.

There is no compelling reason our state should not extend basic rights and responsibilities to everyone. I support this legislation for the thousands of couples in Hawaii and their families who want the same protections that other citizens enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2. It will leave children vulnerable to an educational system that ultimately will be forced to teach and promote an unhealthy homosexual lifestyle.

A U.S. District Court ruling (February 23, 2007) in Lexington, Massachusetts, will have profound effect elsewhere where civil unions or same sex marriages are recognized. *David Parker, et. al., Plaintiffs v. William Hurley, et. al. Defendants*, C.A. No. 06-10751-MLW. In that decision, the District Court judge dismissed the lawsuit of concerned parents of public school children, who have been forced to learn that “normalizing homosexuality to young children is ‘reasonably related to the goals of preparing students to become engaged and productive citizens in our democracy.’”

The District Judge further held that the parents of the school children cannot have their children opt out of the curriculum teaching the “normalization of homosexuality.” Instead, he gave a “TAKE OR LEAVE IT” stance. He said if the parents don’t like it, they can send their children to private schools that do not teach the normalization of homosexuality or to teach their children at home.

If your committee passes SB 232 out of committee, and if SB 232 is passed as law, it will be only a few years when what happened in Lexington, Massachusetts may become a reality in Hawaii, i.e. parents of public school children will not be able to “opt” their children out of classes teaching the so called normalization of homosexuality even though such teaching contravenes the religious beliefs of the parents and their school children. Moreover, the “forced” teaching of the normalization of homosexuality may cause teachers to file lawsuits against the State DOE because their religious beliefs too will be infringed. This is far from being imaginary as shown in a recent news article from an English publication, “The Telegraph.” See the attached article.

3. It will encourage persons to push for other relationships, such as polygamous marriages or relationships, because the very definition of "marriage" and "civil union" ultimately will take on a different meaning.

Consider a devout Muslim man who comes to Hawaii and want to have his recognized marriage under Sharia law to 4 wives be recognized as well with all of the attendant benefits and obligations conferred upon him. How can this Legislature not recognize his relationship with his 4 wives under the "equal protection" clause of the Hawaii State constitution?

4. There will be enormous financial and other costs to Hawaii should SB No. 232 be passed. See the Hawaii State Department of Health sheet which gives sobering statistics on AIDS Diagnosis in Hawaii from 1982 to 2007 wherein it was reported male to male sex accounted for 72.4% of AIDS reported cases during that period and another 7.1% of AIDS cases resulted from male to male sex and injection drug use. Without cavil, it can be assumed the medical costs associated with such risky behavior increased dramatically as well since the cost of drugs for treatment of HIV and AIDS have risen dramatically. SB No. 232 will in effect give State sanction to such risky behavior and the medical treatment resulting there from.

Once again, I urge you to vote NO on SB 232, and not pass the said Bill out of committee.

Very truly yours,

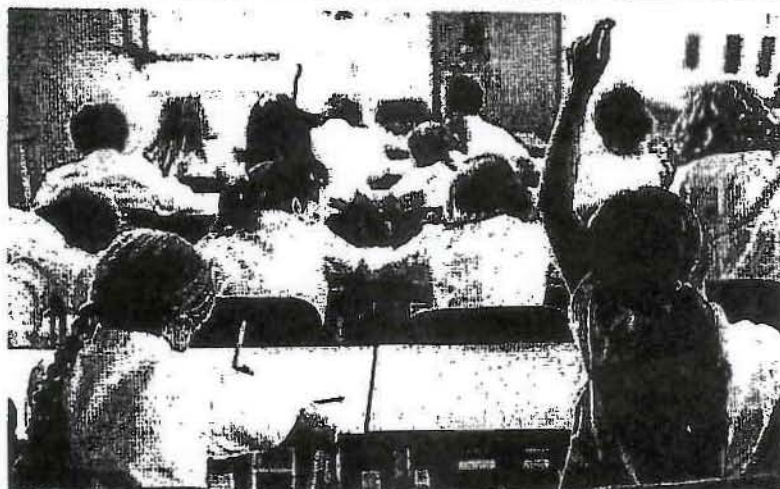


Robert K. Matsumoto

The Telegraph

'Gay lessons' in maths, geography and science

Children are to be taught about homosexuality in maths, geography and science lessons as part of a Government-backed drive to "celebrate the gay community".



The lesson plans, spread across the curriculum, will be offered to all schools, which can choose whether or not to make use of them Photo: GETTY



By Jasper Copping (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/jasper-copping/>)

9:00PM GMT 22 Jan 2011

Lesson plans have been drawn up for pupils as young as four, in a scheme funded with a £35,000 grant from an education quango, the Training and Development Agency for Schools.

The initiative will be officially launched next month at the start of "LGBT History Month" – an initiative to encourage teaching about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual issues.

The lesson plans, spread across the curriculum, will be offered to all schools, which can choose whether or not to make use of them.

But critics last night called the initiative a poor use of public money which could distract from the teaching of "core" subjects.

Among the suggestions are:

[EC spent £124k on gay activists' conference](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/8098792/European-Commission-spent-124000-on-gay-activ)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/8098792/European-Commission-spent-124000-on-gay-activ>

[UK overseas aid spent on coffee and dancing](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/8261809/Where-our-overseas-aid-goes-salsa-in-Cambridge-cc)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/8261809/Where-our-overseas-aid-goes-salsa-in-Cambridge-cc>

Canterbury is 'gay enough'

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/5629668/Canterbury-is-sufficiently-gay-council-inspector>)

Maths – teaching statistics through census findings about the number of homosexuals in the population, and using gay characters in scenarios for maths problems;

Design and technology – encouraging pupils to make symbols linked to the gay rights movement;

Science – studying animal species where the male takes a leading role in raising young, such as emperor penguins and sea horses, and staging class discussions on different family structures, including same-sex parents;

Geography – examining the transformation of San Francisco's Castro district in the 1960s from a working-class Irish area to the world's first "gay neighbourhood", and considering why homosexuals move from the countryside to cities;

Languages – using gay characters in role play scenarios, and teaching "LGBT vocabulary".

The lesson plans, written by teachers and backed by the Department for Education, will be available for schools to download from the Schools Out website.

For younger children, the plans will suggest using images of same sex couples and also promoting books such as "And Tango Makes Three", which is about two male penguins raising a young chick, inspired by actual events at New York's Central Park Zoo.

The Schools Out organisation, which runs the month-long event, declares on its website that the aim is to "celebrate the lives and achievements of the LGBT community" and "encourage everyone to see diversity and cultural pluralism as positive forces".

However, Craig Whittaker, Conservative MP for Calder Valley and a member of the Education Select Committee, said: "This is nonsense.

We have enough problems in our country, where we are too far down the national comparative league tables in these core subjects.

"Teachers should concentrate on teaching the core subjects, so we become the best at those again. I don't see how introducing LGBT themes into those subjects is going to help.

"This is not about being homophobic, because there are other schemes around the education system which support the LGBT agenda."

John O'Connell, from the TaxPayers' Alliance, added: "Parents will wonder if this is the right use of funds and time in those subjects, particularly when we keep hearing how tight budgets are."

Sue Sanders, from Schools Out, defended the project.

She said: "These lessons are not big tub-thumping lessons about LGBT and nothing else.

"All we are attempting to do is remind teachers that LGBT people are part of the population and you can include them in most of your lessons when you are thinking inclusively."

David Watkins, a teacher involved in the scheme, said: "We don't want teachers to start out saying 'This is a gay lesson.' We just want lessons that don't ignore that there are lesbian and gay people who suffer from issues and problems.

"When you have a maths problem, why does it have to involve a straight family or a boyfriend and girlfriend? Why not two boys or two girls?

"It's not about teaching about gay sex, it is about images and exposing children to the idea that there are other types of people out there."

A spokesman for the TDA said the funding was secured last March and that £20,000 was to go towards the lesson plans, with the rest spent mostly on the website.

A Department for Education spokesman added: "These are optional teaching materials. Ultimately, it is for heads and teachers to choose the most appropriate teaching resources to help promote equality and tolerance."

LGBT History Month started in 2005 and has previously focused more on raising awareness of prominent figures said to be homosexual.

A list on its website includes Hadrian, the Roman emperor, Michaelangelo, the Renaissance painter, Alan Turing, the mathematician, and Will Young, the singer.

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2011



**HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH**

**HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
Cases to June 30, 2008**

Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawaii

Chiyoame L. Fukino
Director of Health

AIDS Reporting: As of June 30, 2008, 3,066 AIDS cases were reported to the Hawaii HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Department of Health. A total of 93 cases were reported during the past one-year period (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008). Of these, 78 (84%) cases were male and 15 (16%) cases were female. These cases were reported from Honolulu County (64, 69%), Hawaii County (14, 15%), Maui County (13, 14%), and Kauai County (2, 3%). Among these 93 reported cases, 37 cases were diagnosed during this period: 32 (86%) males, 5 (14%) females. The majority of these cases were diagnosed in Honolulu County (29, 78%). This semi-annual report contains AIDS demographic data for reported cases by year (page 2), by county (page 3), and by race/ethnicity (page 4).

HIV Reporting: The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) has issued new reporting requirements on March 13, 2008, for healthcare providers and laboratories to include the patient's name for all cases of HIV infection. This includes individuals who were diagnosed previously in Hawai'i or elsewhere and those who are newly diagnosed. The new requirements for named HIV reporting are part of recent changes to the Hawai'i State Administrative Rules, Chapter 156, Communicable Disease Reporting. The earlier code-based HIV reporting no longer exists.

AIDS Diagnosis in Hawaii

Figure 1. Hawaii AIDS Cases for four time periods, 2000 - 2007

Figure 1 shows the number of Hawaii AIDS diagnoses (left bar) and reported cases (right bar) for four time periods from 2000 to 2007. AIDS cases are reported long after they are diagnosed. Due to reporting delay, the numbers of diagnosed and reported cases do not match for each time period. The number of AIDS diagnoses decreased from 234 in 2000-2001 period to 121 in 2006-2007 period. The increased number of reported cases in the periods from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007 is a result of active surveillance and many unreported cases were discovered during these periods. Some of these reported cases were diagnosed in 2000-2001 or earlier.

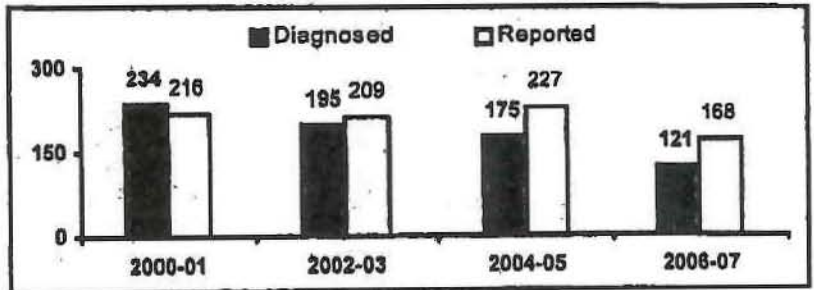


Table 1. Demographics of Hawaii AIDS Diagnoses, 2000 - 2007

Table 1 illustrates numbers of AIDS diagnoses for four time periods (from 2000-2001 to 2006-2007) by gender, risk, age, and county. From 1982 to 2007, there were 3,046 AIDS cases diagnosed in Hawaii. Males account for most of these cases (2,792, 91.7%). The proportion of female cases has increased to 15.7% in the recent period (2006-2007), compared to 13.3% in the 2000-2001 period. Men having sex with men (MSM) continues to be the primary risk for AIDS diagnosis in all four time periods. The proportion of MSM cases decreased from 64.3% in 2000-2001 to 54.5% in 2006-2007. The proportion of AIDS cases for Injection Drug Use (IDU) has increased to 18.2% in 2006-2007 from 8.7% in 2000-2001. Seventy-three percent (2,209/3,046) of Hawaii AIDS diagnosed were between 30 to 49 years of age. There were no pediatric AIDS cases for the recent two time periods (2004-2005, 2006-2007). The majority of AIDS diagnoses were in Honolulu County.

Characteristics	2000-01		2002-03		2004-05		2006-07		1982-2007	
	N = 241 (%)	N = 201 (%)	N = 201 (%)	N = 154 (%)	N = 121 (%)	N = 121 (%)	N = 3,046 (%)			
Gender	Male	209 86.7	174 86.8	138 89.8	102 84.3	2,792 91.7				
	Female	32 13.3	27 13.4	16 10.4	19 15.7	254 8.3				
Risk	MSM	155 64.3	120 59.7	94 61	66 54.5	2,205 72.4				
	IDU	21 8.7	15 7.5	8 5.2	22 18.2	233 7.6				
	MSM/IDU	12 5.0	14 7	12 7.8	6 5	216 7.1				
	Hetero	25 10.4	15 7.5	9 5.8	4 3.3	171 5.6				
	Other/Unkn.	28 11.6	37 18.4	31 20.1	23 19	221 7.3				
Age	<13	1 0.4	1 0.5	0 0	0 0	17 0.6				
	13-19	1 0.4	1 0.5	2 1.3	1 0.8	12 0.4				
	20-29	17 7.1	18 9	13 8.4	6 5	371 12.2				
	30-39	88 36.5	67 33.3	43 27.9	33 27.3	1,254 41.2				
	40-49	87 36.1	68 33.8	59 38.3	47 38.8	955 31.4				
	>49	47 19.5	46 22.9	37 24	34 28.1	437 14.3				
County	Honolulu	161 66.8	154 76.6	108 70.1	93 76.9	2,212 72.6				
	Hawaii	30 12.4	18 9	21 13.6	12 9.9	392 12.9				
	Maui	38 15.8	21 10.4	19 12.3	12 9.9	311 10.2				
	Kauai	12 5.0	8 4	6 3.9	4 3.3	131 4.3				

Please forward any questions and comments to the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, 3627 Kilauea Avenue, Suite 306, Honolulu, HI 96816, Phone: (808) 733-9010, Fax: (808) 733-9015. This report is available at this website: http://www.hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/aboutus/prg-aids/aids_rep/index.html

Shawn A. Luiz
Attorney at Law
1132 Bishop Street
Suite 1520
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel. (808) 538-0500 Fax (808) 538-0600 E-mail: attorneyluiz@msn.com

January 24, 2011

Via Facsimile to Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office at 586-6659

Judiciary and Labor Committee on
SB232 Relating to Civil Unions
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

For almost fourteen years I have practiced law in the federal and State Courts of Hawaii. Some of these cases involved federal and state civil rights. I believe the Hawaii State Legislature should be made aware of the following empirical evidence prior to voting on this issue.

A vote for civil unions is a vote for same sex marriage. As Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont aptly demonstrate, Civil Unions transform into same-sex marriage within a relatively short period of time.

The Ramifications of Same-sex "Marriage" are aptly demonstrated through the observed impact upon Massachusetts.

The impact in Massachusetts since the courts granted gays the right to marry has been:

I. Training Video Teaching Gay Pride in Schools

A training video created by Women's Educational Media for teachers shows what you can expect in our Hawaii elementary schools if civil unions are created by the State. It included statements such as, "Waiting to teach children to accept differences of all kinds until middle school or high school is too late." In one segment, teachers discuss teaching homosexuality to children even if parents have moral objections to it, concluding that it had to be taught regardless of parental objections. In particular, note the attitudes being instilled in young minds that any opposition to gay marriage or homosexuality is mean and hateful and the use of peer pressure to enforce that prejudice.

January 24, 2011
Judiciary and Labor Committee on
SB232 Relating to Civil Unions
Page 2 of 3

II. Legal Actions against Parents

The Massachusetts courts have also held that the schools have no requirement to notify parents when teaching about homosexuality even in Kindergarten.

U.S. District Judge Mark L. Wolf dismissed a civil rights lawsuit brought by David Parker, ordering that it is reasonable; indeed there is an obligation, for public schools to teach young children to accept and endorse homosexuality. Wolf essentially adopted the reasoning in a brief submitted by a number of homosexual-advocacy groups, who said "the rights of religious freedom and parental control over the upbringing of children would undermine teaching and learning."

III. Attack on Religious Adoption Agencies

Gay activists' efforts have forced the Catholic Charities of Boston, begun in 1903, to cease its adoption services rather than comply with state law requiring placement of children with homosexual couples.

IV. Tolerance Not the Objective of the Gay Lobby

The foregoing examples aptly illustrate the activist Gay Lobby's legal agenda is not mutual tolerance but use of the power of state to force their views upon everyone else.

While decrying hate speech, they are teaching it to young impressionable children in the schools, teaching them that anyone who believes that homosexuality is wrong is an ignorant bigot.

The Gay Lobby wants to silence all disagreement and attempts to do so by twisting words and terms. Christians are called hypocrites. Those with traditional morals or religious beliefs are called homophobic. Disagreement is called hate. Honest opponents are called

January 24, 2011
Judiciary and Labor Committee on
SB232 Relating to Civil Unions
Page 3 of 3

bigots, hypocrites and forces of darkness. Teaching homosexuality to young children is called preparing them to become engaged and productive citizens.

From the actual history of the legally enforced implementation of gay rights in the schools and courts, they use the law and the courts to threaten and harass anyone who disagrees with their views and to shut down freedom of speech and to deny parents the right to control the moral teaching of their children. The Gay Lobby's view of tolerance is one sided, using the force of law to promote their views while exercising that same force to limit the freedom of those who disagree with them.

As a civil rights practitioner, it is apparent the end result: this resulting one sided use of the power of the state to force their views upon everyone else will to only lead to intolerance for everyone else's views on the matter. Such is the case in any system elevating one group at the expense of another. Throughout history we have seen what happens when one group's rights is abdicated to appease another group. The Judiciary Committee should discern this strategy and table SB232.

Very Truly Yours,


Shawn A. Luiz