

SANDRA G. Y. YOUNG

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January 25, 2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Senator Clayton Hee (Chair)  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro (Vice Chair)  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Les Ihara Jr  
Senator Sam Slom

Re: Strong Opposition to SB 232 (Civil Unions)

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, Sen. Gabbard, Sen. Ihara and Sen. Slom:

I respectfully request that you vote against SB 232 (Civil Unions) for the following reasons:

1. **Civil Unions = Same Sex Marriage.** As drafted, SB 232 is same sex marriage because it gives same sex couples the same rights, responsibilities, benefits and protections of marriage (see page 7, paragraph 9, lines 10-16 of SB 232).
2. **Civil unions will be have the name of same sex marriage.** Within a few years, it is virtually certain that if SB 232 is passed, same sex marriage will be the law of the land in Hawaii. If we look at other states which have enacted civil unions, same sex marriages were subsequently recognized in those jurisdictions such as Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut and New Hampshire. Once civil unions become the law, advocates of same sex marriage will have a stronger case in state and federal courts to argue their case.

Immediately after the Connecticut State Legislature passed a Civil Unions bill similar to the one before you, proponents of same sex marriage filed a lawsuit and prevailed in their case for same sex marriage by arguing that the newly-enacted civil unions law violated the equal protection clause of the state constitution. Similarly, if the Civil Union bill is passed in Hawaii, it is likely that the courts will impose same sex marriage on the citizens of Hawaii once a lawsuit is initiated by same sex marriage advocates. It is more likely to occur if the action is brought in the federal courts of this State.

3. **Civil unions will subordnate the rights of parents and the First Amendment rights of religious people to practice their faith and to speak freely about their beliefs.** In communities where civil unions and same-sex marriages exist the parents' values have been subordinated to the states' views on a variety of topics including human sexuality. It happened to David and Tonia Parker of Massachusetts. In 2005, Mr. Parker asked the school where his 5 year old was

**OPPOSE**

attending for advance notice and an opportunity for his child to opt out of any presentation that depicts or celebrates gay marriage because there was a state statute that allows parents to have notice and opt their children out of any instruction on human sexuality. The school declined to accommodate his request, so he sued them, and lost. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear his case.

One day we may acquire the same legal regime as in Canada and Europe, where pastors who have spoken about the Biblical view on homosexuality have been arrested, fined and forbidden to speak on the issue (Canadian Pastor Stephen Boisson in 2008) or even jailed (Swedish Pastor Ake Green in 2004).

4. **SB 232 is a discriminatory bill.** The Civil Unions bill is a discriminatory bill because it excludes family members and other classes of people. Unlike the civil unions bill, the existing reciprocal beneficiaries law represents true equality because it is open to family members. If the benefits for reciprocal beneficiaries are insufficient, then an amendment should be added to the existing law to increase the benefits. Furthermore, in my view, it is unlikely that it would lead to same sex marriage or adversely effect the rights of parents or the religious liberty rights of people of faith.

5. **SB 232 is a legally defective bill.** Regardless of whether you support or oppose the concept of civil unions, it is our concern that SB 232 contains numerous legal and technical defects which will have serious implications on the practical implementation and administration of civil unions, in addition to the devastating impact on traditional marriages, parental rights and our religious liberties. These defects to be serious and that even strong proponents of civil unions would not want these defects to remain in the bill as passed by the 2011 Legislature. Again, in its haste to pass a civil union measure this session the Legislature failed to adequately research, analyze and address the complexities of creating a new legal relationship.

In brief, the defects and problems include issues relating to the following: failure to include any provisions for dissolving the civil union; failure to confer jurisdiction on the appropriate court; failure to address how tax returns should be filed; multiple legal relationships appear to be possible; devastating effects on the rights of the biological parents and children; detrimental impact on religious liberties and parental rights. As mentioned above, the bill will strengthen the claims of proponents of civil unions to achieve their goal of same sex marriage, which has been resoundingly rejected by the Hawaii electorate.

6. **A Reasonable, Non-Discriminatory Alternative Is Available to Every Unmarried Person Who Meet Certain Criteria.** For the most part, I support the Reciprocal Beneficiaries law. It is a morally neutral law and doesn't identify people by their behavior. The Legislature can work on providing increased benefits such as health insurance, state tax benefits, certain privileges (similar to the spousal privilege given in criminal cases), death benefits, support (similar to spouses) and so on. It would not open the floodgates to same sex marriage or adversely effect our religious liberties or parental rights.

For these reasons and others, I respectfully request that you vote against SB 232. Once again, thank you for your service to the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA YOUNG

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

# CHRISTIAN VOICE of HAWAII

*Standing for Righteousness in the Public Square*  
Post Office Box 23055 • Honolulu, Hawai'i • 96823

## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

### PUBLIC HEARING:

JANUARY 25, 2011, 10:00 AM,  
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 232

CHAIR CLAYTON HEE and MEMBERS of the  
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

Aloha. I offer this testimony today on behalf of Christian Voice of Hawaii, a network of more than 800 ministers from many denominations throughout Hawaii. The network involves pastors and leaders of numerous faith-based ministries that are active in providing support services in communities throughout the islands — from homeless shelters, to food distribution, family counseling, medical care, elderly and hospice care, social and spiritual counseling, assisting un-wed mothers, problem pregnancies, child services, education and so forth.

The members of the Christian Voice of Hawaii network hereby register our **OPPOSITION** to SB 232 – relating to civil unions – for the following reasons.

**ON PRINCIPLE:** Legalizing civil unions on the basis of “equality” is specious. As you know not all practices are “equal.” Laws are there to differentiate between activities: to allow and encourage those that benefit society and to disallow and discourage those that harm society. We maintain the net outcome of “civil unions” will harm society.

**FOR CAUTION:** Unless you are absolutely certain that civil unions will have do no harm to Hawaii’s children and families, and the moral standards that hold our entire society together, we strongly recommend that you err on the side of caution and reject “civil unions.”

**RECIPROCAL BENEFICIARIES:** We maintain that Reciprocal Beneficiaries is the superior option as it does not violate and dismiss nature’s laws, thousands of years of moral codes, the sensibilities of Hawaii’s people or the current laws of Hawaii. Reciprocal Beneficiaries does indeed exemplify equality.

**Most important, messing with time-honored moral standards will do irreparable harm to society.** The moral standards and laws of society recognize traditional marriage (a union between a man and a woman) as essential and vital to protect and ensure a healthy society. Undermining the moral standards, sending contradictory messages to children, will wreak havoc with Hawaii’s families and, in a domino effect, severely damage society. We say, “Please don’t mess with our kids and families!”

LATE TESTIMONY

OPPOSE

Christian Voice of Hawaii urges you to not legalize "civil unions." Instead, in the truest sense of equality, we recommend expanding the current Reciprocal Beneficiaries provision as a more suitable, comprehensive option.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leon Siu".

Leon Siu  
Director,  
Christian Voice of Hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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 Janet Hobson. I am a home-school parent and 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 creates an elect group of people which is not appropriate in our country. We are all created equal. This bill forgets about other couples, who also would like to obtain the elite status that the homosexual community requests.

If SB232 bill is enacted, it is only the first step that will lead us directly to the Supreme Court and out of Hawaii legislative hands, toward the decision of same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

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.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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' 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights.

Then SB232 assumes that homosexuality is a civil rights issue and granting civil unions is only natural in our country. This is a false assumption as it never been adequately proven that homosexuality is something a person is born with but rather it is a life-style choice.

This legislation will eventually lead to educating young ones regarding homosexuality as acceptable and it is a viable life-style alternative and even encouraged if one questions his/her own sexuality.

Many families disagree with this faulty logic. We are not haters but must retain our own rights in raising and education our own children the way we see fit. SB232 will not strengthen our families but instead confuse and cause chaos in many homes.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this matter as it effects many more than just the homosexual community but the whole of Hawaii. Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono. Please vote NO!

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Leona Ka'apuni  
89-148 A Pililaau Ave.  
Waianae, Hawaii 96792  
808-668-7308

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Tuesday, January 24, 2011

**Strong Opposition to SB232, Relating to Civil Union**

As a wife and mother of five children with a strong foundation in the Christian faith, I have done everything within my power and God's guidance to raise my children to believe that what is written in the Bible is God's law. We need to live according to what the Bible says. I have also taught my children that they must also obey the laws of the land. Therefore, I strongly oppose SB232 "Civil Unions". This is just another way to legalize same-sex marriages, and it contradicts everything I believe in and contrary to what I have taught my children.

By passing this Civil Union bill, you are not only allowing a man/man or a woman/woman to marry, but you are also forcing the heterosexual population to accept and normalize homosexuality. When in fact, homosexuality is a choice they have chosen; as there is no proof otherwise. We all know that with choices, there are consequences. They knew before hand that homosexuality was never an acceptable sexual practice. Yet, this is the path they have chosen. So why now is the heterosexual population being forced to accept it?

We as human beings are designed to procreate. There is no way for a homosexual couple to procreate by themselves. God designed a marital relationship to be between a man and a woman. In fact, the definition of marriage as stated in Webster's dictionary is as follows: Marriage is the social institution under which a man and woman establish their decision to live as husband and wife by legal commitments, religious ceremonies, etc.

When the issue of same-sex marriages was placed before us in 1998 the people of Hawaii spoke out loud and clear with a resounding NO! Yet, we have this Civil Union Bill SB232 here before us today. The definition of the word union, according to Webster's dictionary is, the act of uniting two or more things together and civil means pertaining to, or consisting of citizens. I don't know about you, but it sure sounds like same-sex marriage to me. I don't mean to sound sarcastic, but I don't appreciate the fact that our lawmakers are deliberately ignoring our voices, and thinking that we are ignorant. When in fact, Civil Unions is just another name for same-sex marriages. Which, I believe was voted AGAINST by the people of Hawaii in 1998. I don't like it when someone tries to pull the wool over my eyes. Yet, that is just what I feel our lawmakers have done by introducing this SB232 placed before us today.

**OPPOSE**



In just a little over five years ago, Massachusetts has legalized same-sex marriages or quote "Civil Unions", which has been destructive. It has torn down the foundation of the family structure and values, as we know it. Having children in the second grade read stories such as "King and King" which tells a story about two men who have a romance and marry each other, passing out literature on same sex marriages and how it is now a normal part of society. Having literature such as "The Little Black Book – Queer in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" which was written by the Boston-based AIDS Action Committee, with help from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission. This booklet was distributed to hundreds of kids (middle school age and up) at Brookline High School in Brookline, MA, on April 30, 2005. It contains hideous work of obscene pornography, 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, and includes a directory of bars in Boston area where young men meet for anonymous sex. I don't know about you, but this does not sound like normality to me. In fact, it sounds like a very disgusting piece of work: yet the language used in this book is how many homosexuals converse. I heard it myself. Please feel free to look at it, here's the URL: <http://www.article8.net/downloads/LittleBlackBook.pdf>

I as a parent want to appeal to you not just as our lawmakers, but as parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents: is this what you want for our children? We are looking at possibly passing this bill and looking at the State of Massachusetts as a guide. My question for you is: do you want our children to be subjected to this type of information and graphic material? If this bill is passed, you will be placing our young and vulnerable children at risk.

Other effects on Massachusetts since homosexual marriage became legal are the rates of HIV/AIDS have gone up considerably in Massachusetts. Just this year alone, public funding to deal with HIV/AIDS is up to \$500,000. Domestic Violence is on the rise as well. We must not let this happen in Hawaii.

Are we as a population becoming so desensitized to these immoral practices that we are willing to normalize it? Will we soon become desensitized to murder, rape, stealing, pedophiles, and so forth and will one day deem it, normal? Are the circumstances and problems being faced in Massachusetts today, something the state of Hawaii will have to look forward to? Let's not forget we as a state took a stand against this matter in 1998 and proclaimed marriage to be between a man and a woman. Therefore, I would like remind each and everyone of you here in the Senate that you are held accountable not only to the people of Hawaii, but to God as well. Each of you will be held personally responsible, for the decisions made here and how your vote will affect the future of our island, and our children. As a wife and mother I strongly advise the state senate to vote against SB232 legalizing Civil Unions here in the state of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**PUT IT TO A VOTE & PUT IT ON THE**  
**BALLOT!!**

LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 7:32 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** strider4jc@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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Strider Didymus  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [strider4jc@hotmail.com](mailto:strider4jc@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

This bill is nothing but "marriage" (Chapter 572, HRS) in disguise. Please vote NO and allow "We the People" to decide on this through the proposed bill by Senator Sam Slom (SB863 PROPOSING AN ADMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII). This issue goes back to 1998; please honor the will of the people (72%) who voted to retain "marriage as between one man and one woman." Just because certain legislators were elected or re-elected, it doesn't give them card blanc to disregard the facts above. Further, this is NOT a civil rights issue (despite the constant false mantra), but a very unhealthy lifestyle that will affect the entire State. Look it up, Martin Luther King never once mentioned homosexuality as being a "civil right," it is in fact a choice by a very small population. Lastly, our Judeo-Christian founding fathers would be rolling in their graves had they envisioned this perversion of morals, laws of nature, undermined laws of man, and blasphemy of God to which we shall all be held accountable to one day. Thank you.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 7:15 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** strider4jc@aol.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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Strider Didymus  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [strider4jc@aol.com](mailto:strider4jc@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

This bill is nothing but "marriage" (Chapter 572, HRS) in disguise. Please vote NO and allow "We the People" to decide on this through the proposed bill by Senator Sam Slom (SB863 PROPOSING AN ADMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII). This issue goes back to 1998, please honor the will of the people (72%) who voted to retain "marriage as between one man and one woman." Just because certain legislators were elected or re-elected, it doesn't give them card blanc to disregard the facts above. Further, this is NOT a civil rights issue (despite the constant false mantra), but a very unhealthy lifestyle that will affect the entire State. Look it up, Martin Luther King never once mentioned homosexuality as being a "civil right," it is in fact a choice by a very small population. Lastly, our Judeo-Christian founding fathers would be rolling in their graves had they invisioned this perversion of morals, laws of nature, undermined laws of man, and blashemy of God to which we shall all be held accountable to one day. Thank you.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Charlene Sakaguchi [kaohunani@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:59 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Civil Unions

Date of hearing: 01/25/11  
Time: 10:00AM  
Place: Conference Room 016 -State Capitol

Bill 232 - please do not pass. I am against same sex marriage.

Thank you,  
Charlene Sakaguchi

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Steve Welck [welck@maui.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:29 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB 232 RFeating to Civil Unions

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR,

The issue of Civil Unions has come up repeatedly here in Hawaii and each time the Citizens of Hawaii have made it clear that they reject Civil Unions the forerunner of same sex marriages. Are you not listening to the people! Please add my voice to the majority. Please do not extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

Respectfully,

Steve Welck  
Lahaina, Hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** sherlane dick [sherlanedick@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:47 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 232

As a tax payer and resident of Hawaii since 1961, I oppose SB 232. This will be the first step toward legalizing same sex marriage in our beautiful state.

This is not for Hawaii. Marriage is and will always be a union between a man and a woman. With the Civil Union passage, the next step is logically, since we have all the privileges of marriage, why can we not be legalized as MARRIAGE.

Please vote against this bill for the sake of Hawaii and its children.

Sherlane Dick  
2140 Kuhio  
Honolulu Hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

Subject: Testimony regarding SB 232,

to be held Tues. Jan 25, 2011, 10AM

As I understand it, SB 232 proposes that the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law be extended as are extended to marriage. I oppose.

Traditional marriage is fundamental to preserving social stability. It is a divine institution and a vital instrument for rearing children to become responsible and caring adults. Because of the importance of marriage to society, governments through the years have provided protection and benefits to help support and preserve the family. Marriage is an unselfish act devoted primarily to raising mutual offspring between a man and a wife. It requires long-term commitment and has been strengthened with government support. Recognition of civil unions may be justified on grounds of mutual affection or of self-fulfillment. Would it be wise for the government to provide the same support it does for marriage to a partnership that is not based primarily on raising mutual offspring? Even if same-sex partners adopt and raise children, there is consideration that the children will not benefit from the differences that come from the unique roles of a father and a mother.

When the government seeks to extend the same benefits and protections to civil unions, I feel this will, over time, weaken society. It may dilute society's view of marriage to be less vital. Traditional marriage may not be as well preserved and strengthened as the building block of society. In addition, when the government seeks to extend the same benefits as marriage has and enforce equal protection of civil unions, this opens up a wide possibility of interference in the private and religious sphere. Church and state may be in clash as the government steps into the religious sphere to protect civil unions equally to marriage. I understand that in certain states, the rights of religious adoptive agencies have been challenged over their placing children only in a heterosexual home, which is in accordance to their beliefs. In addition, civil union advocates have suggested that tax benefits to religious organizations may be withdrawn in attempt to get church agencies to recognize and promote civil unions. Interfering in the private sphere may come as school systems develop curriculum to support the state law that recognizes and protects civil unions, teaching children that homosexual unions and heterosexual marriage are equal, or that they must both be protected and accepted. Even if this clashes with the majority of parents beliefs in a school district, the school may be required still to teach the curriculum.

In conclusion, I oppose SB 232. Consider carefully its long-term application and effects. Though it does not seek to define civil unions as marriage, it does seek to equally provide benefits and protection to both. They are not at all the same thing and do not equally strengthen society. Thus the government should not extend equal benefits and protection. Marriage between man and woman is vital to the stability of society. It must be preserved and strengthened as society's building block.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

January 24, 2011

Committee: **JDL**  
Room: **Auditorium**  
Hearing Date: **1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM**

Dear Senate Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the subject of SB 232, relating to Civil Unions. I **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB232**, and I humbly request that the Hawaii State Legislature not pass this measure. SB 232 is an attempt to circumvent the will of Hawaii's people and the law, which asserts that: "... the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman" [Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 572 Section C-2].

SB 232 states that it intends to recognize civil unions in Hawaii without revising the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage under chapter 572 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (Hawaii's marriage law). However, SB 232 endeavors to recognize "civil unions" by adopting much of the same language, licensing rules, procedures, terms, and outcomes that are achieved by marriage (**pursuant to HRS 572**), which ultimately permits same-sex marriage by another name: civil unions.

For example, SB 232 states, " 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.**" (Again, chapter 572 is our **marriage law**).

This bill continually references Chapter 572, the state's marriage law, as how one is to be granted a civil union. This is not acceptable. Marriage, by any other name, is still a marriage. SB 232 is deceptive and devious in its attempt to circumvent the law and the will of Hawaii's people by attempting to adopt into the proposed civil unions law sections that are "pursuant to chapter 572" (Hawaii's Marriage law) to achieve same-sex marriage. Again, marriage is a union between one man and one woman. A "civil union" cannot exist... the final outcome is still a marriage, and marriage will always be marriage, a union between one man and one woman.

In addition, Hawaii law already extends 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] (Hawaii Revised Statutes 572 Section C-1).

**Please OPPOSE SB 232, and DO NOT PASS this measure.** It will be a blessing to our state to maintain marriage as it is, between one man and one woman.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. L. Shorba, M.A.

**LATE TESTIMONY**  
**OPPOSE**



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 4:26 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** LionEntHI@aol.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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Lleander Jung  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: LionEntHI@aol.com  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

Dear Chair & Members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee,

My opposition to Civil Unions is on several fronts : Moral, Economic & Educational. However I will not go into details which others will bring up in educational.

1)Moral : In all cultures, regardless of religions, civil unions and marriages is based upon natural law, between a man and a woman beyond certain degree of relative closeness for the purposes of family support, child bearing and rearing. Same sex unions is not according to natural law, does not procreate and has to raise children not from their own relationship but from a heterosexual couple.

Unfortunately, a second moral reason is about the blurred lines of relationship eligibilities. Our society having tolerated loose cohabitating relationships for many decades has resulted in a high percentage of interfamilial relationships making it difficult to implement Section 2, 3 on eligibility & voiding of civil unions. Therefore, in legal technicality, even civil unions between a man and his step sister or brother can arguably be "recognized" for the purposes of benefits because the closeness of relationships between the intended couple may have been conceived out of legal wedlock.

Example : Father of A cohabitated with Mother of A and B without the marriage of either being made legal. The children are therefore step siblings. Assuming both children from two different mothers decide they wish to enter into a Civil Union, is this union therefore legal if neither declare publicly their closeness of relationship? The importance of clarifying this is the legality of both receiving the benefits presently reserved for those in legal marital unions. Who pays for the challenges to or the penalties of proofing that they "cheated the system"?

When the law decides to be very generous and impartial with regard gender identity and sexual orientation, recognizing almost all relationships, it also has to bear the burden of proving benefits should or should not be given be it in health insurance, property divisions and rights of children to receive child support should the relationship be broken.

The second main category of objection to SB232, on Civil Unions is Economic which is a very real problem with the State being unable to balance a large deficit presently. The Governor

**OPPOSE**

has indicated in his State of the Union speech that we all need to bear the burden (who bears the bigger burden?) and also to resolve problems with an eye to long term solutions.

The truth of same sex unions proponents demanding recognition is not that they care about who accepts their individual sexual partnership or lifestyle choices. The real aim is their knowledge that this lifestyle choice carries a high health risk of both HIV and STD and the treatment of either and both is very costly. They cannot afford to pay for it personally and have to count on high subsidies from the health care system. This cost of course has to be borne by the majority of tax payers.

The bill as written states :

&#167; -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.

So what facts should we consider to make this decision because once recognized and approved, it translate into benefits which are unaffordable.

1. The Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) indicated on their website :

At this time, there is no cure for HIV infection. Despite major advances in diagnosing and treating HIV infection, in 2007, 35,962 cases of AIDS were diagnosed and 14,110 deaths among people living with HIV were reported in the United States

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/basic/index.htm>

...40% deaths. (my italics) Is this monies well spent?

2.The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) findings on the cost of HIV states as quoted :

Note this finding was about 8 years ago and the cost has definitely increased

[http://www.phrma.org/publications/fact\\_sheets/selected\\_facts\\_about\\_hiv\\_aids](http://www.phrma.org/publications/fact_sheets/selected_facts_about_hiv_aids)

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Economic Impact

A recent study found that the total lifetime cost of illness for Americans newly diagnosed with HIV in 2002 is approximately \$36.4 billion, of which more than 80 percent is related to productivity losses.<sup>6</sup>

Differences in medical care result in dissimilar costs—both direct and indirect—among different racial and ethnic groups. Minorities are, on average, diagnosed at later stages of the disease than whites, who are more likely to receive antiretroviral therapy (ART). Researchers found that patients on ART have direct medical costs averaging \$230,044, with a projected life expectancy of 24.4 years. Patients not receiving ART have direct medical costs of approximately \$114,938, with a projected life expectancy of 12.4 years. Minorities incur fewer direct medical costs than whites (\$160,400 for African Americans on average, compared with \$180,900 for whites), but suffer greater financial damage from lost productivity (\$838,000 for Hispanics and \$766,800 for African Americans on average, compared with \$661,100 for whites).<sup>6</sup>

Without intervention, a perinatal HIV transmission rate of 25 percent would result in 1,750 HIV-infected infants born annually in the United States with lifetime medical costs estimated to be \$282 million. The cost of intervention (HIV counseling, testing, and zidovudine treatment) was estimated to be \$67.6 million. That intervention would prevent 656 pediatric HIV infections, saving \$105.6 million in medical care costs—a net cost-savings of \$38.1 million annually.<sup>7</sup>

6. Medical News Today, Medilexicon International Ltd, [www.medicalnewstoday.com](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com) 7. KidSource Online, Inc., [www.kidsource.com](http://www.kidsource.com)

The Hawaii State legislature is a microcosm of the National Legislative Body. By being very tolerant of diverse lifestyle choices it will be targeted as a very attractive destination for those seeking a state which is very generous in financing their health needs.

Is this what is meant by "balancing the budget"? Behind every request which on the surface appears to cater to one's sense of fairness and equality, lies real reasons to be examined closely before approval.

Unless the legislature can come up with hard economic figures for the health cost not only of an individual but a partnership within a civil union, it had better not be a laughing stock of the nation.

Look at California and examine its liberal attitudes towards civil unions and look closely at why it has such a high economic deficit.

Please do not pass SB232. Although it appears in only the Judiciary & Labor Committee, its intent is to by pass the scrutiny of the Finance Committee.

Thank you.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

h. - . . .

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:17 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** GZ808@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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Gary  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [GZ808@yahoo.com](mailto:GZ808@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:  
I strongly oppose to this bill to create civil unions, as marriage is a special institution that should be reserved for a man and woman.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

David M. Ross, Jr.  
77-6219A Kaunalumalu Drive  
Holualoa, Hawaii 96725  
[services@rekona.com](mailto:services@rekona.com)  
808-322-7152

January 24, 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Via Email: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto: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:

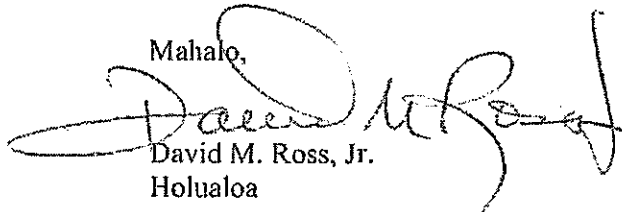
- **BENEFITS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE:**
  - The Reciprocal Beneficiary Law [§572C-1] *Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to extend certain rights and benefits which are presently available only to married couples to couples composed of two individuals who are legally prohibited from marrying under 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**

**OPPOSE**

- 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 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the voters in our State who have voted against it.

Mahalo,

  
David M. Ross, Jr.  
Holualoa

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Kela Miller [millerk010@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:11 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Oppose the SB232

Aloha,  
My name is Kela Miller from La'ie I am oppose to SB232 which pertains to Civil Union. Please reconsider and listen to our people of Hawaii.  
Mahalo

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

Janella Hung  
1548 Ala Aolani Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Date: January 24, 2011

RE: Strong Opposition to SB 232

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

As chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I hope you will prevent this bill from passing out of committee. SB 232 should not be made into law and I am strongly opposed to SB 232 for two reasons.

First, this bill is unnecessary because Hawaii already has a reciprocal beneficiary law. This provides a method for those unable to be married under state law a means of obtaining many of the same tangible benefits offered to those under marriage.

Second and more importantly, this civil union bill would effectively circumvent the will of the people of the state of Hawaii with regard to the institution of marriage. In 1998, the people of the state of Hawaii voted overwhelmingly in support of a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. However, by proceeding with SB 232, the state legislature is presuming that the intent of the people of Hawaii who voted in favor of the definition of marriage amendment was that they merely intended to restrict the name of "marriage," but not the concept. This view is flawed. The very wording of SB 232 equates civil unions with marriage, and thus, the effect of SB 232's passage would be to legalize same-sex marriage under the name of civil unions.

**§ -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.

Chapter 572 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes is the chapter that lays out the rules, rights, and responsibilities of marriage. And although the introduction of SB 232 belies that "it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage under chapter 572, Hawaii Revised Statutes," the very wording at the end of the bill reveals the true intent when it says, "partners to a civil union... shall have all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law... as are granted to those... pursuant to chapter 572," the marriage chapter. This makes it absolutely clear that the legislature IS equating civil unions with marriage, which essentially does redefine marriage. This stratagem for trying to accomplish what the people of Hawaii have clearly indicated they oppose is outrageous for our elected representatives to consider. If the Legislature is certain that the people of the state of Hawaii support civil unions, please put the matter to vote as a constitutional amendment. For an issue with such broad-reaching effects, the voters of Hawaii should have the final say.

Respectfully,  
Janella Hung  
Registered Voter

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**



Ivan & Janella Hung  
1548 Ala Aolani Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

To: Representative Glenn Wakai  
Fax (808)586-6221

Date: February 18, 2009

RE: Strong Opposition to SB 232

Dear Representative Wakai,

Thank you for your willingness to work tirelessly in behalf of the people of our district. We were disappointed to learn of your floor vote in support of SB 232, which seeks to legalize civil unions in Hawaii. We oppose this bill for two reasons.

First, this bill is unnecessary because Hawaii already has a reciprocal beneficiary law. This provides a method for those unable to be married under state law a means of obtaining many of the same tangible benefits offered to those under marriage.

Second and more importantly, this civil union bill would effectively circumvent the will of the people of the state of Hawaii with regard to the institution of marriage. In 1998, the people of the state of Hawaii voted overwhelmingly in support of a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. However, by proceeding with SB 232, the state legislature is presuming that the intent of the people of Hawaii who voted in favor of the definition of marriage amendment was that they merely intended to restrict the name of "marriage," but not the concept. This view is flawed. The very wording of SB 232 equates civil unions with marriage, and thus, the effect of SB 232's passage would be to legalize same-sex marriage under the name of civil unions. This stratagem for trying to accomplish what the people of Hawaii have clearly indicated they oppose is outrageous for our elected representatives to consider. If the Legislature is positive that the people of the state of Hawaii support civil unions, please put the matter to vote as a constitutional amendment.

Should it ever come to a vote again, please vote NO on SB 232.

Respectfully,

Ivan & Janella Hung

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Titus Napoleon [titus\_napoleon@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 5:38 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB232

I am writing in concern of Senate Bill 232 and the hearing on Jan 25 2011 at 4pm

I am opposed to this bill, for many reasons, I believe that this will disrupt and confuse our children and society. If this bill were to pass, this means that our legislation does not listen to the people of Hawaii. We have voted against this time and time again, and I feel we need to look to more important issues facing our keiki's future. This is about us as a nation and people. We are one nation under God and it is his rule, regardless what the world thinks, he has set his precedents that must be followed. Please don't let this pass. respect our voices and communities. God Bless! Titus Napoleon

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Dela Rosa, Ellen Gay [delarose@polynesia.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 5:32 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Oppose

I oppose SB 232 – I am for traditional marriage and pray that those whom I elect to office will speak and represent my voice.

Malama pono

Ellen Gay Kekuaokalani Dela Rosa

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Beth Brown [hibrowns@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:52 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** Hearing RE: SB 232, Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00, Conf. Room 016

Regarding Testimony in Opposition to:

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.

Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
10:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

To the Honorable Mr. Clayton Hee, Chair; the Honorable Ms. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-chair; Honorable Mr. Gabbard, Honorable Mr. Ihara, and Honorable Mr. Slom, members of the Hawaii Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii. Because laws create precedents and the basic understanding of what our community views as good, healthy and beneficial for the people in our community, I especially thank you for your *careful* consideration of this significant legislation.

Laws are often thought of as creating boundaries for our protection, but they do more than that, they also educate us as to what is good for us. SB 232 sends the message to our society that a partnership between two people of the same sex can be *equally substituted* for the family unit as defined by one man and one woman, thus redefining the environment which we believe is best for healthy families to raise healthy children and develop a healthy society. SB 232, if passed will strongly redefine what is “good” for our community in Hawaii.

If we pass SB 232, while we may not be currently using the term “same-sex marriage” we will have redefined legally, what the family is made of. We will have made a policy change that will alter the fundamental unit of our community and we will be doing it without understanding the long term and unintended consequences of this “social experiment.”

Although SB 232 uses the term civil union, it would be naive to believe that the social impact would not be one of making “civil unions” equivalent to marriage. This re-definition runs contrary to the basic way cultures throughout the world have embraced as the “best” way to build the foundational unit of society—the family. While sociologists have collected significant data over decades showing the benefits of opposite-sex, man-woman marriage for children, we have yet to collect long-term, repeatable information on the effect of parenting children in same-sex unions. If we pass SB 232, we are changing society’s boundaries and our community’s understanding of what is best, healthy and beneficial for Hawaii’s families. **The people of Hawaii do not view same-sex marriage as equivalent to opposite-sex marriage.** Same-sex marriage/Civil union is not the best, the healthiest, the most beneficial way to make a family.

**OPPOSE**

I urge you to allow the people of Hawaii to determine if they believe the fundamental changes proposed through SB 232 are the best for our community. Civil union legislation has led to court decisions in other states in favor of same-sex marriage. The leap from "civil union" to "same-sex" marriage was very easy to make in the mind of the court because in reality there is no difference.

I'm concerned that our state laws support and create a healthy environment and view of what is the "good" for families in Hawaii. Please vote against SB 232. It is not "good."

Respectfully, and grateful for your consideration,

Beth Brown

For Trevor, Christa (16), Caleb (13) and Charis (10)

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**OPPOSE**

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**From:** Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:44 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** SB232 in support of civil unions

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.

Ann S. Freed  
Co-Chair Women's Coalition  
95-227 Waikalani Dr. A403  
Mililani, HI 96789

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Ihara and committee members,

We urge you to pass this measure as expeditiously as possible. Civil Unions is among the top 2011 legislative goals for the Coalition as we understand that civil rights are not a matter for debate, but are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Further we understand that when the rights of our LGBT brothers and sisters civil rights are trampled on then the rights of women are not far behind.

Under Nazi Germany gays were among those sent to the death camps. Are we really more enlightened in 21st Century America?

Remember the ominous poem by by Martin Niemöller, prominent German anti-Nazi theologian and Lutheran pastor

**When the Nazis came for the communists,  
I remained silent;  
I was not a communist.**

**When they locked up the social democrats,  
I remained silent;  
I was not a social democrat.**

**When they came for the trade unionists,  
I did not speak out;  
I was not a trade unionist.**

**When they came for the Jews,  
I remained silent;  
I wasn't a Jew.**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



*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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



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;

**LATE TESTIMONY**





Jennifer C. Pizer  
SENIOR COUNSEL AND  
NATIONAL MARRIAGE PROJECT DIRECTOR  
jpizer@lambdalegal.org

January 24, 2011

Via email to [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
and United States Mail

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

**SUPPORT**

**From:** Connie M. Florez [hulagirlprod@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:47 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Cc:** Connie M. Florez  
**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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS**

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I, Connie M. Florez, support the passage of SB232. Members of the Democratic Party of Hawaii have been submitting civil unions bills for the last decade. SB232 is essentially identical to HB444 SD1, which passed both Houses last year. The only substantive difference between SB232 and HB444 SD1 is a change in the effective date.

HB444 was heard on its merits exhaustively in 2009 in an 18-hour Senate hearing. Every proponent and opponent in attendance was given an opportunity to testify. Therefore, I will not belabor the content of the bill. The only substantive difference between HB444, which was subject to the 18-hour hearing, and HB444 SD1 was a change in the eligibility requirements; SD1, co-authored by Senator Shan Tsutsui, amended HB444 so that all couples, both same-sex and opposite-sex, could apply for a civil unions license.

The SD1 version passed the Senate (18-7) on or about January 22, 2010. It passed the House on or about April 29, 2010. On July 7, 2010, Governor Lingle vetoed the bill.

Candidate Neil Abercrombie said repeatedly and unequivocally during his campaign that he would have signed HB444. He won convincingly in both the primary and general elections against opponents who were equally clear that they would have vetoed the bill. Governor Abercrombie swept all but four districts in the primary election and all but one district in the general election. The voters clearly resonated with the Governor's theme that our diversity defines us: it does not divide us.

In the last 4 years we have made enormous strides toward enacting this bill. In 2007 the civil unions bill was heard in the House, tabled in committee, and not heard in the Senate. In 2009 the bill passed the House and was heard in the Senate. In 2010 the bill passed both Houses and was vetoed by Governor Lingle. It's time for the bill go all the way to enactment.

In a meeting last Friday, advocates were informed that many people have reviewed and commented on HB444 SD1, including Senate and House Majority Leaders, the Senate Majority Policy leader, members of our Governor's staff, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Taxation, the Department of Health. They have made suggestions to facilitate the implementation of a civil unions bill. With the Chair's permission, I will summarize these suggestions and offer them at the hearing for your consideration.

**SUPPORT**

Very truly yours,

**Connie M. Florez**

Hula Girl Productions

P.O. Box 11884

Honolulu, HI 96828

[Connie@hulagirlproductions.com](mailto:Connie@hulagirlproductions.com)

808.561.5749

[www.thegladesproject.com](http://www.thegladesproject.com)

[www.tongantatau.com](http://www.tongantatau.com)

[www.hulagirlproductions.com](http://www.hulagirlproductions.com)

[www.imdb.com/name/nm2449416/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2449416/)

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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**From:** kim allen [pumpkim7@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:35 PM  
**To:** JDL Testimony  
**Subject:** In support of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

> COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

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> 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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

> \*\*Testimony in SUPPORT of  
> Senate Bill 232\*\*

> January 24, 2011

> Kimberly Allen

**SUPPORT**

> 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.

>  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Kimberly Allen  
>  
> Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

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*Handwritten mark*

*Handwritten signature*



# HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

January 25, 2011  
Conference Room 16  
10:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Coral Wong Pietsch, Chair  
and Commissioners of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

**SUPPORT  
W/AMEND**

Re: S.B. No. 232

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

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 232, which establishes the statutory legal relationship of "civil union," conferring on those who enter into a civil union the statutory rights, benefits, and obligations attached to those who enter a marriage, as defined by HRS chapter 572. The proposed legislation will have profound, but not exclusive, impact on same-sex couples who are not allowed to marry under Hawaii law.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

## Background

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

In *Baehr v. Lewin*, 74 Hawaii 530 (1993), the Hawaii Supreme Court held that denial of the benefits accorded to married couples to same-sex couples, who could not obtain a license to marry, was sex-based

discrimination in violation of constitutional guarantee of equal protection, absent the showing of a compelling state interest.

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

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

#### **HCRC support for S.B. No. 232**

S.B. No. 232 establishes the legal relationship of "civil union" and provides the couples in civil unions the same rights, benefits and obligations conferred on married couples by applying all references to "marriage" in the HRS to "civil unions."

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

More importantly, the state has a fundamental interest in civil rights, non-discrimination, and equality. Article I, Section 5 of the State Constitution mandates that "no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of their race, religion, sex, or ancestry." Consistent with this historical commitment, Hawai`i has expanded its civil rights laws to protect against many forms of invidious discrimination.

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

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

The legislature has extended protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to the fair employment, housing, and public accommodations civil rights laws that the HCRC enforces. Enactment of S.B. No. 232 would extend current protections against marital status discrimination to include civil union status. The HCRC supports the establishment of the statutory legal relationship of civil union, and the application of statutory references to “marriage” equally to “civil unions.”

**SUPPORT  
W/AMEND**

#### **Suggestion for amendment based on constitutional concern**

The HCRC has a specific concern and recommendation regarding the exemption provided under § -4(b) and (c) of the new civil unions chapter as proposed in SB 232, which expressly allows judges and clergy who are authorized to perform solemnization of marriages under §§ 572-11 and 572-12 to refuse to perform solemnizations of a civil union.

The HCRC supports the proposed exemption for only for clergy, based on 1st amendment religious freedom and similar to other religious exemptions, but recommends that the exemption not be extended to judges. The basis for the HCRC concern and recommendation is that judges' authorization to perform marriages stems from their state office, and they should not be allowed to discriminate – whether on the basis of race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other invidious or unlawful basis. An exemption allowing such discrimination could be the basis for an equal protection challenge. In addition, the Hawai'i Revised Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 2.3, prohibits judges from manifesting by words or conduct a bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, *sexual orientation*, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation.

Judges who perform solemnizations of marriages and civil unions can continue to choose to perform or not to perform such solemnization ceremonies for non-discriminatory reasons. For example, under current law, it is not uncommon for judges to perform marriages only on a limited basis, for family or friends, or only on specific days. They can decline a request to perform a marriage because they are too busy – but no judge should be allowed to refuse to perform marriages on the basis of race or other invidious discriminatory basis. And, of course, judges can choose not to perform any marriage or civil union solemnizations at all.

For the foregoing reasons, to avoid constitutional infirmity and codification of an exemption allowing judges to engage in discrimination, the HCRC recommends that any new civil unions bill provide for the exemption for clergy as provided in S.B. No. 232, but that no similar exemption be provided for judges.

Suggested draft language for an amended S.D. 1 is attached.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 232 and urges your favorable consideration.



ATTACHMENT

Suggested draft language § -4(b) and (c) of the new civil unions chapter as proposed in SB 232:

§ -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 any ~~[person]~~ ordained or licensed member of the clergy authorized to perform solemnizations of chapter 572 or civil unions to perform a solemnization of a civil union, and no such ~~[authorized person]~~ ordained or licensed member of the clergy 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

**LATE TESTIMONY**  
**SUPPORT W/AMEND**

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.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT  
W/AMEND**

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**From:** Kayla E [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 9:45 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,

Kayla E  
Surprise, AZ

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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** alisonldenning@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:05 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.

Legal and medical issues are vastly more difficult to deal with when same sex couples are not allow some form of state supported partnership.

Respectfully,  
Alison Denning  
Mt Baldy, Ca 91759

###

**SUPPORT**



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

Labor Caucus

January 24, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawaii State Capital  
Judiciary  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: S.B. No. 232, Hearing January 25, 2011, Testimony in Support

To: Senator Clayton Hee and Judiciary Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Steve Canales. I strongly support SB232, because I believe equal rights are for everyone. The GLBT and Heterosexuals community will have the same rights like married couples no matter of their life style, ethnicity, and religion.

Labor has always supported equal rights for all working families including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual workers. This bill will also give the essential benefits for taking care and providing for their families. These essential benefits include retirement, medical benefits, life insurance, and childcare.

I strongly support Civil Union bill SB232. I would like to thank Senator Clayton Hee and the Judiciary committee for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Steve Canales  
Labor Caucus Chair  
Democratic Party of Hawaii  
1050 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste. #2660  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Abe Evan [aecc17@ymail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:08 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB232 regarding civil unions, 1/25/11, 10am hearing - OPPOSE

Aloha Senator Clayton Hee and Judiciary Committee,

I strongly oppose SB 232 regarding civil unions. The following is taken from the National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality from their site at <http://www.narth.com/menus/positionstatements.html>

I do not wish to support a law that may encourage people away from the following truths:

### **NARTH Position Statements**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

#### **1. Right to Treatment**

NARTH respects each client's dignity, autonomy and free agency.

We believe that clients have the right to claim a gay identity, or to diminish their homosexuality and to develop their heterosexual potential.

The right to seek therapy to change one's sexual adaptation should be considered self-evident and inalienable.

We call on our fellow mental-health association to stop falsely claiming to have "scientific knowledge" that settles the issue of homosexuality. Instead, our mental-health associations must leave room for diverse understandings of the family, of core human identity, and the meaning and purpose of human sexuality.

#### **2. Gay Advocacy in Public Schools**

When schools offer information on sexual orientation, the facts should be presented in a fair and balanced manner.

Groups such as the American Psychological Association currently recommend that schools censor all "ex-gay" materials, and prohibit discussion about those who have chosen to change their orientation. Respect for diversity, however, requires teaching about all principled positions. We live in a multi-cultural society where tolerance for differences is essential.

And when homosexuality is discussed, it must not cross the line into lifestyle advocacy. Ultimately, sexual lifestyle decisions hinge on matters of deeply held values. Schools should respect the right of families to convey their own social values to their children.

#### **3. Pedophilia**

Early sexual experiences with an older, same-sex person are commonly reported by our homosexual clients. And some studies do suggest that such experiences may be more common among homosexuals than heterosexuals; in proportion to their numbers, that is, homosexuals may be more likely to sexually abuse a same-sex minor.

**SUPPORT**

However, the data remains inconclusive for several reasons.

Studies have not always been able to determine the sexual orientation of the same-sex molester (was he a heterosexual man crossing over into same-sex behavior? a bisexual? or a homosexual?) Also, clinical reports suggest that a very substantial proportion of homosexual molestation is not reported to adults or legal authorities because the child was ashamed, fearful or considered the same-sex contact with an older person to have been "consensual."

For these and other reasons, it is difficult to come to a conclusive answer on the basis of the evidence now available.

#### **4. Homophobia**

The term "homophobia" is often used inaccurately to describe any person who objects to homosexual behavior on either moral, psychological or medical grounds. Technically, however, the term actually denotes a person who has a phobia--or irrational fear--of homosexuality. Principled disagreement, therefore, cannot be labeled "homophobia."

#### **5. Same-Sex Marriage**

Social science evidence supports the traditional model of man-woman marriage as the ideal family form for fostering a child's healthy development.

#### **6. On the Meaning of Tolerance and Diversity**

"Tolerance and diversity" means nothing if it is extended to activists and not traditionalists on the homosexual issue.

Tolerance must also be extended to those people who take the principled, scientifically supportable view that homosexuality works against our human nature.

#### **7. On the Causes of Homosexuality**

NARTH agrees with the American Psychological Association that "biological, psychological and social factors" shape sexual identity at an early age for most people.

But the difference is one of emphasis. We place more emphasis on the psychological (family, peer and social) influences, while the American Psychological Association emphasizes biological influences--and has shown no interest in (indeed, a hostility toward) investigating those same psychological and social influences.

There is no such thing as a "gay gene" and there is no evidence to support the idea that homosexuality is simply genetic. However, biological influences may indeed influence some people toward homosexuality; recent studies point to prenatal-hormonal influences, especially in men, that result in a low-masculinized brain; also, there may be genetic factors in some people -- both of which would affect gender identity, and therefore sexual orientation. But none of these factors mean that homosexuality is normal and a part of human design, or that it is inevitable in such people, or that it is unchangeable.

Numerous examples exist of people who have successfully modified their sexual behavior, identity, and arousal or fantasies.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

Mahalo,

A. Evan.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



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**From:** Garrett Walker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 9:11 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,

Garrett Walker  
Crandall, GA

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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Cardsby Roland [cardsbyroland@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 8:21 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  
Mike Gabbard  
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.

Roland Serania, Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** DavidShirota@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 7:48 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** RE: In Support of SB232

To: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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 wholeheartedly support the passage of SB232.

David H. Shirota  
District 31, Precinct 2, Treasurer  
1224 Ala Napunani St.  
Honolulu, HI 96818-1625

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

**From:** Sandy Farmer-Wiley [mztata@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 7:46 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** IN SUPPORT OF SB232 - RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS  
**Attachments:** header.htm

January 24, 2011

**Sandra Farmer-Wiley & N. Jean Walker**  
**2763 Kauhale Street**  
**Kihei, HI. 96753**  
**mztata@hawaiiantel.net**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232**

**Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair**  
**Sen. Les Ihara Jr.**

**ATTN: Committee on Judiciary**  
**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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

We are in support of SB 232, which is essentially the same as HB 444 SD 1.

We have been together in a committed relationship and because we, as Senior Citizens, could no longer wait for Hawaii to catch up with our lives. We Married in Vt. October of 2009. We are hoping that with Civil Unions passing in the State of Hawaii we can stop being fearful of what will become of our shared belongings.

After being in a together for 33 years we can not be assured of the surviving Partner / Spouse being able to inherit the properties we have accumulated and only with the President passing the new rules for Hospitals accepting Medicare / Medicaid can we be sure of spending our last moments together. It must be difficult for those of you who are not in unaccepted relationships to realize how precarious things can be for us. The day either of us passes away the other will be without 75% of the income that supports our lives.

Jean was a State of Hawaii employee and so gets Retirement + SSI checks. If she dies first that source of income is GONE. I will have no way to recoup that to supplement the SSI check that I receive. Nor will I any longer have the Medical & Dental plans that we have now.

Please remember that no matter what kinds of Ads and Commercials that are playing on the television, Civil Unions are not Marriage. The Federal Government does not recognize them and none of the 1,000 + benefits that are

**SUPPORT**

extended to Married people in the United States will be extended to anyone in a Civil Union. SB232 makes the responsibilities clear enough to reassure.

Please pass this Bill out of Committee.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sandra Farmer-Wiley & N. Jean Walker

Kihei, Maui, HI. 96753

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

# Joshua Kay

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1944 Puowaina Drive · Honolulu, HI 96813-1733  
Tel: (808) 923-2400 · E-mail: [joshua@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:joshua@hawaii.rr.com)

## Strong Support

**S.B. 232**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

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

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

*Mahalo* for the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Joshua Kay, and I am in strong support of Senate Bill 232 — Civil Unions.

Due to the unequal treatment of same-sex couples under Hawaii civil law, and because I and many others are denied the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities enjoyed by opposite-sex couples, I am keenly aware of the fact that I'm treated as a second-class citizen. This unequal treatment is unfair and unjust. I believe that all people should be treated equally under the law.

Additionally, because there are now many religious organizations (including various Christian denominations), that recognize and honor same-sex unions, it has become glaringly obvious that restricting these rights, benefits and protections to only opposite-sex couples gives the appearance that the state is officially endorsing the religious beliefs of some citizens, in deference to the religious beliefs of other citizens.

The passage of SB232 into law will go a long way toward addressing this inequality and eliminating the appearance of state-sponsored endorsement of certain religious beliefs to the exclusion of the beliefs of others.

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

Aloha,  
**Joshua Kay**  
1944 Puowaina Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96813-1733

**SUPPORT**  
**LATE TESTIMONY**

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB232. My name is Kalei Kailihiwa.

Honorable leaders, I believe that all people, all families should be treated equally under the law. SB232 extends the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union.

My partner and I have been together for 10 years and we have a two year old son together. He is the light of our lives. By all intents and purposes, we are a family. Our son will be raised knowing that he has two loving parents who are committed to loving him and each other. We are fortunate to be surrounded by friends and family who support us. We wait in hopeful anticipation for the day when our beloved state will also support us by ensuring equal rights and protections to our family and families like ours.

We are simple people who work hard. We pay our taxes. We vote. We don't expect anything more than to be treated fairly by the system of laws that we believe so strongly in.

Currently, my family is not treated fairly. I am treated like a single parent by the law, when in truth; my son has two loving parents. This unequal treatment that my family experiences is unfair and unjust. We know in our hearts that Hawaii is not a place that would allow unfairness. Hawaii is a place that values the ohana and in an ohana, nobody gets left behind. Civil unions are a way to support all families in Hawaii. The issue of equal treatment for same-sex couples is the civil rights issue of this generation. Please don't leave us behind. I ask that you support SB232 and appreciate your careful consideration.

Mahalo nui,

Kalei Kailihiwa

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Rona Lieberman [pemalieberman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:39 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB232

To: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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.

Rona Lieberman, M.D.  
Kailua, HI 96734

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



---

**From:** Sandi DeSilva [sandides@sprintmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:35 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Civil Unions

I fully support Civil Unions.

Sandi DeSilva  
290 Mountain View Drive  
Reno, Nevada 89509

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Claire Lewis-Jones [clairelewis@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:55 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Civil unions

Please consider this bill & pass it.  
Thank you  
Claire lewis-jones

Love, light, blessings, healing, peace & rock & roll , ClaireSent from my iPhone

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Diana Ferreira [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 4:10 AM  
**To:** JDL Testimony  
**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,

Diana Ferreira  
Paços de Ferreira, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email

[responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Gregory Esteve [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:07 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,

Gregory Esteve  
Lake Wales, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Patrick M. Donovan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:01 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,

Patrick M. Donovan  
Brooklyn, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** pgozemba [pgozemba@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:00 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 232 January 25th 10 AM

TO: Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

RE: Support of SB 232 Civil Unions

DATE: January 24, 2011

I write in strong support of this bill. Since 1980, I have spent a vacation or work assignment in Hawai'i every year. I would like very much to retire to this wonderful state that embraces so much diversity. Alas, this really cannot happen for me without giving up a very important element of my civil rights—the right to be married to the love of my life, Karen Kahn.

In Massachusetts, we are a married couple and we enjoy all the rights, benefits and responsibilities of marriage that all other loving and married couples have available to them. For the five months each year that we now spend in Hawai'i, we carry our wills and power of attorney documents. Is this a way for any loving, committed couple to have to live? The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia have embraced marriage equality. Other states recognize civil unions or domestic partnerships. But like so many other LGBT people, we would prefer to be in Hawai'i and contributing to the economy and social fabric of this wonderful state.

Patricia A. Gozemba  
4188-1 Keanu St.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Patricia A. Gozemba  
4188-1 Keanu Street  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
[pgozemba@gmail.com](mailto:pgozemba@gmail.com)  
978.744.9141

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** SB 232 HCRC test. Senate JDL 1-25-11.doc; SB 232 HCRC suggested amendments Senate JDL 1-25-10.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: William Hoshijo  
Organization: Hawai`i Civil Rights Commission  
Address: 830 Punchbowl St., Rm. 411 Honolulu, Hawai`i  
Phone: 586-8636  
E-mail: [William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov](mailto:William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

If there are any problems or questions with the submitted testimony, please call Bill Hoshijo or Livia Wang at 586-8636.

We are not sure if we can attend to present oral testimony in the morning, due to a scheduled meeting, but will try.

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**

---

**From:** godlygay@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony

dear Sirs or Madams: As a citizen I wish to encourage you to vote in the affirmative for Senate Bill 232, which is being reviewed in the hearing on Tuesday January 25, at 10:00 AM. I have been a bible student for 50 years. And, in that time I have uncovered a "conspiracy" of many Christians who are poorly trained in biblical hermaneutics. Therefore, their conclusions concerning LGBTQ people is in error. Please vote yes on this bill Mahalo, Timothy D. Earhart President of Dignity Honolulu

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



---

**From:** Sylvia Wan [sylvia06@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:03 PM  
**To:** JDLEvidence  
**Subject:** Support SB 232: Civil Unions Testimonial

I am straight, and I support the passage of SB 232, the Civil Unions Bill.

Civil Unions is crucial for LGBT families. A growing number of gay and lesbian couples have children. The Human Rights Campaign estimates that about one third of all lesbian couples and one fifth of all gay couples have children. This means that there is an ever growing need by LGBT families for protections by the state. Their children need protections just like the children in heterosexual families. Civil Unions will stop the discrimination against the children of LGBT parents, because it will allow their parents to enter a state recognized relationship that will confer the same protections that we confer to a heterosexual couples.

Civil Unions would provide benefits to LGBT couples and their families that they would have no other way to receive. There have been numerous law review articles detailing how the majority of rights provided by the status of marriage cannot be duplicated through separate contracts. Not to mention, why should the state make it harder for an LGBT family to receive the same rights extended to a heterosexual family? Isn't that outright discrimination?

The opponents to Civil Unions like to talk about how their religion doesn't allow for the recognition of homosexual couples. But as it stands, not all religious sects frown upon homosexual couples. Actually there are churches that will marry homosexual couples under the eyes of god. Even so, religious rights are not civil rights. The creation of Civil Unions will not in any way tarnish various churches from refusing to recognize and sanction the unions of homosexuals, just as they do now.

Civil rights should never be tied to the views of a particular religious group. The acceptance of LGBT has steadily increased over the years. The marriage amendment passed in Hawaii over 15 years ago. Half of a generation children are adults now. A Gallup poll has shown in a nationwide poll that about 60% of people age 30 and under support same-sex marriage, while the nation on a whole is evenly divided on its support. In the same poll over 70% support extending benefits to same-sex couples. Civil Unions is not same-sex marriage. Civil Unions merely extends benefits to same-sex couples.

In an interview on Hawaii Public Radio, the opponents conceded that is it only a matter of time before Civil Unions becomes reality. If it is only a matter of time, why not now?

Sylvia Wan  
Resident of Oahu

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** renea@juniroa.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:30 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**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.

*Renea C. Stewart*  
215-6 Kawaihae Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
[rstewart@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rstewart@hawaii.rr.com)  
808-864-7422

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Kevin Rebelo [kevin@rebelodesign.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:41 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Please support 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.

Kevin Rebelo

[kevin@rebelodesign.com](mailto:kevin@rebelodesign.com)

2703 Puuhoolai Street

Kihei, HI 96753

808-891-1200

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** kumu sarah [kumukeahi@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In support of Civil Unions SB 232

**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:

We here all citizens of the great of Hawai'i nei support the passage of SB232.  
We ask you to stand up for this law and pass it as soon as possible. It is long overdue.

We all believe in a separation of Church and State. No religious beliefs or interpretations of the Bible or any theology should determine the law.

This is an equal rights, civil rights issue. Our aloha state of Hawai'i should have led the nation with celebrating aloha in a civil union law!

Imua!  
Mahalo & Aloha,

Sarah Keahi  
Shawn Yuen  
Eddy Yuen  
Stan Zisk  
Janet Zisk  
Sally Hill  
Mele Welte  
Cosette Harms  
Dennis Faber  
Dal Turner  
Bob Thomas  
Roy Updike  
Bob Brooks

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** tifoso1926@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: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Donn Viviani  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tifoso1926@hotmail.com](mailto:tifoso1926@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

If the state will allow some people to marry the person of their choice, it should allow ALL people to marry the person of their choice. This is common sense. Please vote for fairness.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
Honolulu Hawai'i Branch  
P.O. Box 6 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96810  
Office (808) 599-5500 Fax (808) 840-0202  
www.naacphawaii.org  
naacphawaii@aol.com



January 24, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chairperson Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB 232: Bill Testimony Relating to Civil Unions - In Support

Dear Chairman Hee,

In 2005, the national board of directors authorized the following position for the NAACP. *"The NAACP shall pursue all legal and constitutional means to support non-discriminatory policies and practices against persons based on race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, or cultural background."* Therefore, the Honolulu Hawaii Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strongly supports SB 232, and urges the passage of civil unions in the state of Hawaii.

As citizens of this great democracy, Americans should enjoy equal civil rights protections and entitlements regardless of a partnership choice. We should also emphasize that the approval of this bill is not intended to violate or diminish any person's existing right or entitlement as an equal citizen under the law. Just as changes to voting, employment, or education entitlements did not violate or diminish the rights and entitlements of other citizens, neither will the passage of civil union legislation. The imposing question of the day remains whether or not gay rights fall into the category of civil rights. For those of us who are advocates of social justice, the prevailing answer is clearly, "Yes!"

The NAACP has been leading the effort for social justice for over 100 years. Founded in 1909, it is the oldest National civil rights organization. Our mission is to "ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alphonso Braggs".  
Alphonso Braggs  
President

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

*Still fighting for justice and equality*

25, January, 2011

To the Members of the State of Hawai'i Congress:

My name is Chai Blair-Stahn and I am writing in support of SB232. Like many other individuals living in Hawai'i, as well as across the USA, and even worldwide, I am gay. No, it is not a "lifestyle" or a "choice"; it is the way I was born and is simply a fact of who I am. But it is not all of who I am; it is only one of the many parts that define me as a unique human being. I am an environmental activist, a community volunteer, a son and a brother, a student pursuing his master's degree, a student of hula, and a musician. And I also happen to be gay.

I am humbly requesting that you—my Congressmen and Congresswomen—vote in favor of SB232, not only on my behalf, but for all of the constituents who identify as gay and lesbian.

In some ways it seems a bit strange that I have to spend time writing a request such as this one. Heterosexual couples have never had to petition their government for the right to have civil unions or to marry. Men who love women or women who love men have never had to fight for legal recognition of their love, as homosexuals have. If all men (and women) are created equally, then why are we not all inherently given the same rights across the board, including this expression of love? Signing SB232 into law will move Hawai'i, and America as a whole, one step closer towards its founding values of equality, liberty and justice for all.

I am but one of hundreds of gay and lesbian community in the beautiful state of Hawai'i. We are all valuable members of society and deserve the same basic rights as the heterosexual citizens of Hawai'i.

Please, my congresswomen and congressmen, please recognize that the only right choice is to vote in favor of equality and human rights. Hawai'i is a state founded on its diversity. In spite of the many different languages and ethnic groups, we can and do live and work together in harmony. The diversity of these islands enriches us; it does not divide us. I ask that you recognize the value in sexual diversity and show the same respect and courtesy given to homosexual citizens here in Hawai'i by voting in favor of SB232. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chai Blair-Stahn

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Michael Holl [michael@eahawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:40 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.

Michael J. Holl  
1302 Pali Hwy  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



**From:** Mary Gross [mgross@condoready.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:37 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** I support the passage of SB232!

To: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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.**

Mary C Gross  
4605 Kuli Road, Kalaheo, HI 96741

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:10 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** abecassis\_melanie@yahoo.fr  
**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: Melanie Abecassis  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [abecassis\\_melanie@yahoo.fr](mailto:abecassis_melanie@yahoo.fr)  
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 the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Melanie Abecassis 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.

I have always supported civil unions as way to offer same-sex couples the benefits of marriage that straight people can enjoy. 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,  
Melanie

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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 support of S.B. 232, Relating to Civil Unions. This bill is one step towards marriage equality.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Chisholm

**LATE TESTIMONY**  
**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Rachel Dorr [rachel.dorr.86@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:14 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 whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my support of Senate Bill 232 because I support justice and equality in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Rachel Dorr

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Bryan D. Freehling [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:21 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,

Bryan D. Freehling  
Lahaska, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Kai Em. [k.ikaika.m@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:24 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In support of SB 232

I am Kaiser-Lee Ikaika Mattos, a native hawaiian and lgbt activist and I support SB 232 because I want my younger brother to know that he didn't get beaten and put in a hospital standing with me to protect our lesbian aunt for nothing. And I want her to know that I support her and her partner of 43 years 6months and 21 days. Thank you for your time and consideration. You can find my personal story as recorded by the BOE testimony I did a few days ago regarding bulling of lgbt youth in hawaii.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Rana Ah Sing [sing2rana@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:23 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.  
**Attachments:** Two Cent Testimony SB232.pages

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Dwane Rogers [Waikikibeachbum@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:33 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In SUPPORT of SB 232 Civil Unions

I, Dwane L Rogers, strongly support equality for all couples in Hawaii and urge you to support SB 232. This bill allows churches to perform Civil Union ceremonies at their discretion so is a totally non discriminatory bill.

Dwane L Rogers  
2410 Cleghorn St  
Honolulu HI 96815

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**



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**From:** Cinde Fisher [bunnycareshi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:15 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

**Senate Bill 232 - Civil Unions**

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

Aloha Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee

I **strongly support Senate Bill 232** for Civil Unions even though I am *not* a member of the GLBT community. I see this bill as a very basic civil right, and gay couples are no less deserving of the right to love and spend their lives with whom they wish than are heterosexual couples.

Many of us cringe when we think back to the times when members of certain religions or races were forbidden from forming loving relationships, and I think there will be a time when we'll look back and shudder at how long this bill has taken to pass. To me, this has more to do with common sense and lack of prejudice than anything else, and I've never understood how anyone could feel that their own relationships might be in jeopardy because of other people's unions.

I urge *anyone*, and particularly those "straight" people like myself, who might be wondering if they should voice their opinion, to stand up and support this - because it's the right thing to do.

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Respectfully,  
Cinde Fisher  
P.O. Box 61509  
Honolulu, HI 96839  
808-381-5545

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**

CLIFFORD CHANG, MPH, CHES

---

4924 Wa'a Street  
Honolulu, HI 96821-1446

To: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB232 scheduled for 10:00 am; January 25, 2011  
Date: January 24, 2011

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB232: Relating to Civil Unions

Committee on Judiciary: Senators Clayton Hee, Chair; Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair; Les Ihara Jr.; Mike Gabbard, Sam Slom

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

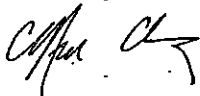
I am testifying in strong support of SB 232: Related to Civil Unions, which is virtually identical to SB444 SD1 which was debated extensively during the past session, passed by both the House and the Senate, and subsequently vetoed by then Governor Lingle.

I will not spend time now on the importance of this bill – you certainly are aware of this from the last Legislative session. Suffice to say that all citizens of Hawai'i, regardless of their sexual orientation, are entitled to benefit equally from benefits established or supported by the state, including those provided to couples in a legally recognized relationship. The civil unions bill will provide such benefits to all couples.

My sister and her partner of over 15 years have been “domestic partners,” and have been able to get married in California during the time when it was legal for same sex couples to be married. Their relationship and love is an example of what a marriage commitment is all about – it honors the institution, rather than threaten “traditional” marriage (whatever that really is!)

Please pass this bill – it is the only right thing to do.

Sincerely,



Clifford Chang

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

Richard S. Miller  
Professor of Law, Emeritus and former Dean

E-mail: [rmiller@aya.yale.edu](mailto:rmiller@aya.yale.edu)

January 24, 2011

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB232, CIVIL UNIONS**

Dear Legislators,

There are important reasons why you should support Civil Unions as permitted in SB232:

SB232 establishes a very reasonable regime which accommodates important religious sensibilities as well as the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has held that under the First Amendment "government should not prefer one religion to another, **or religion to irreligion.**" *Board of Education of Kiryas Joel Village School District v. Grumet*, 512 U.S. 687 (1994) (Emphasis added.) The Equal Protection clause mandates that no state shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

SB232 very happily accommodates and accepts the view that religious bodies will remain free, subject only to traditional legal constraints, to award the religious sanctity of **marriage** only to those persons who share their religious values. At the same time, it also accepts and accommodates the important view that, where the parties do not seek or want, **or, like many same-sex couples, cannot get** the approval of a religious institution for their union, they can be joined by a civil union which will provide them the civil rights and responsibilities that are vital to their well-being and to their lives, but not the religious blessings and obligations. **Importantly, this applies to opposite sex couples as well as to same-sex couples.**

This accommodation gives substantial effect to the wise biblical admonition: "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:21 (The former are currently the very important civil rights and responsibilities which arise from a marital union. The latter are the spiritual blessings of marriage.)

Thus, by virtue of SB232, the many and very important **civil rights and responsibilities** embodied in the marriage laws -- so important to the partners' well-being and human dignity -- will become available to those, whether of opposite sex or same sex, who seek a civil union without the religious constraints or oaths required by marriage. And, at the same time, the regime of marriage sanctified by our religious institutions remains available to those who seek it **and who qualify for it under the rules of their chosen religious institution and the current marriage laws. No religious institution will be required to award the status of marriage to those who may not meet the institution's requirements.** This, I think, is a perfect accommodation with the requirements of the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you for considering my personal views.

Sincerely yours,



Richard S. Miller

LATE TESTIMONY

SUPPORT

---

**From:** marina c m [lmarina55@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:55 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Cc:** lmc cm  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232

To: [JDLEstimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLEstimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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,  
L Marina C Cabanilla Maza  
[lmarina55@yahoo.com](mailto:lmarina55@yahoo.com)

P O Box 61458  
HNL, HI 96839-1458

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** TIMOTHY [timyrrh@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 5:03 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** testimony in support of SB232

To: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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.

Timothy J Kallen  
3348 Catherine st  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96815  
###

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 5:12 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kaleilorenzo@██████████  
**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: Kalei Lorenzo  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: kaleilorenzo@██████████  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

Comments:

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

**From:** Rafael del Castillo [rafa@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:30 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB232

**Importance:** High

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232**

**ATTN: Committee on Judiciary**

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
. Mike Gabbard  
. 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 hope you will consider this unavoidably late submission. I voiced my strong support of H.B. 444 last year in my campaign for the United States Congress.

I strongly support the passage of SB232. I hope that you will act promptly and decisively on this measure so that we can move forward united and equal.

Thank you for your efforts on this important legislation.

Rafael del Castillo  
289 Kawaihae Street, Apt. 222  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825  
(808) 782-1262

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Moorlegghen Theresa [theresam@zendada.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 5:46 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** I support 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.

Theresa Moorlegghen  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



---

**From:** Caroline Hagen [hagen@warmlava.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 6:25 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** I support Civil Unions! SB232

Dear Senators--Please support civil unions for same sex couples. I am the mother of a gay son and his right to a normal, healthy life has become an important issue to me and everyone in our family. This is a civil rights issue and we cannot allow the bigotry of the past to dissuade us. Please fight for the rights of all your citizens. thank you. Caroline Hagen 62-~~1234 5678 91011~~ Kamuela, Hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Diane Lierman [dlierm@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 6:34 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Support Senate Bill 230 - Civil Unions

We support justice and equality and support Bill 230. We hope that enough of the silent majority finally speak out to let the government know that we would like to see equal rights for all and we finally do become the land of Aloha and welcoming that we are meant to be. Diane, Timothy, and Maureen Lierman

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Ben Shafer [bdshafer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 6:39 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Support SB 232

Aloha mai kakou;  
I believe in the civil and just rights of all people. Discrimination in any form is not pono.  
Mahalo nui loa kakou,  
Ben Shafer  
52-210 Kamehameha Highway Hauula, Hawaii. 96717  
808-222-3138  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

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

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and committee members:

My family and I are asking for your support to recognize us as the legitimate loving family that we are. My partner and I have been together for 11 years and are raising two children that we adopted, Saxoni is 3 years old and Sakoda is 8 months old. The sad thing is that because Hawaii's laws do not recognize our type of family, Thomas does not have any legal right, as a parent, to our children.

We are award winning public school teachers and state and national champion coaches. We have been recognized as outstanding educators and our program brings school spirit and personal pride to our school as OC16 states for the entire state to see. Yet we are not good enough to have our family be recognized and get the same rights and responsibilities that others have in our state. I, Bo Frank and my partner Thomas Luna are local men, graduated from local high schools and are here to give back to the kids of Hawaii. I feel very sad that in the last few months we have considered moving to a different state so that our own children have the same protections and rights that other children have.

Please, it is time to end the hate. There are many other reasons that SB 232 should be passed, I could go on and on with valid reasons and personal testimony but all you have to do is look at the smiling faces of our two children to know you are doing the right thing by allowing us to be a family. Pass senate Bill 232 because it is the right thing to do for all Hawaii families!

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB 232 and civil unions for Hawaii.

Bo Frank, Thomas Luna, Saxoni Frank, and Sakoda Frank  
[radfordrams@hotmail.com](mailto:radfordrams@hotmail.com)  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**SUPPORT**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** SB 232 HCRC test. Senate JDL 1-25-11.doc; SB 232 HCRC suggested amendments Senate JDL 1-25-10.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: William Hoshijo  
Organization: Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission  
Address: 830 Punchbowl St., Rm. 411 Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Phone: 586-8636  
E-mail: [William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov](mailto:William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

If there are any problems or questions with the submitted testimony, please call Bill Hoshijo or Livia Wang at 586-8636.

We are not sure if we can attend to present oral testimony in the morning, due to a scheduled meeting, but will try.

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB232 on 1/25/2011 10:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** SB 232 HCRC test. Senate JDL 1-25-11.doc; SB 232 HCRC suggested amendments Senate JDL 1-25-10.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: William Hoshijo  
Organization: Hawai`i Civil Rights Commission  
Address: 830 Punchbowl St., Rm. 411 Honolulu, Hawai`i  
Phone: 586-8636  
E-mail: [William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov](mailto:William.D.Hoshijo@hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

If there are any problems or questions with the submitted testimony, please call Bill Hoshijo or Livia Wang at 586-8636.

We are not sure if we can attend to present oral testimony in the morning, due to a scheduled meeting, but will try.

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**

---

**From:** godlygay@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony

dear Sirs or Madams: As a citizen I wish to encourage you to vote in the affirmative for Senate Bill 232, which is being reviewed in the hearing on Tuesday January 25, at 10:00 AM. I have been a bible student for 50 years. And, in that time I have uncovered a "conspiracy" of many Christians who are poorly trained in biblical hermeneutics. Therefore, their conclusions concerning LGBTQ people is in error. Please vote yes on this bill Mahalo, Timothy D. Earhart President of Dignity Honolulu

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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**From:** Sylvia Wan [sylvia06@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:03 PM  
**To:** JDL Testimony  
**Subject:** Support SB 232: Civil Unions Testimonial

I am straight, and I support the passage of SB 232, the Civil Unions Bill.

Civil Unions is crucial for LGBT families. A growing number of gay and lesbian couples have children. The Human Rights Campaign estimates that about one third of all lesbian couples and one fifth of all gay couples have children. This means that there is an ever growing need by LGBT families for protections by the state. Their children need protections just like the children in heterosexual families. Civil Unions will stop the discrimination against the children of LGBT parents, because it will allow their parents to enter a state recognized relationship that will confer the same protections that we confer to a heterosexual couples.

Civil Unions would provide benefits to LGBT couples and their families that they would have no other way to receive. There have been numerous law review articles detailing how the majority of rights provided by the status of marriage cannot be duplicated through separate contracts. Not to mention, why should the state make it harder for an LGBT family to receive the same rights extended to a heterosexual family? Isn't that outright discrimination?

The opponents to Civil Unions like to talk about how their religion doesn't allow for the recognition of homosexual couples. But as it stands, not all religious sects frown upon homosexual couples. Actually there are churches that will marry homosexual couples under the eyes of god. Even so, religious rights are not civil rights. The creation of Civil Unions will not in any way tarnish various churches from refusing to recognize and sanction the unions of homosexuals, just as they do now.

Civil rights should never be tied to the views of a particular religious group. The acceptance of LGBT has steadily increased over the years. The marriage amendment passed in Hawaii over 15 years ago. Half of a generation children are adults now. A Gallup poll has shown in a nationwide poll that about 60% of people age 30 and under support same-sex marriage, while the nation on a whole is evenly divided on its support. In the same poll over 70% support extending benefits to same-sex couples. Civil Unions is not same-sex marriage. Civil Unions merely extends benefits to same-sex couples.

In an interview on Hawaii Public Radio, the opponents conceded that is it only a matter of time before Civil Unions becomes reality. If it is only a matter of time, why not now?

Sylvia Wan  
Resident of Oahu

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



---

**From:** renea@juniroa.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.

*Renea C. Stewart*  
215-6 Kawaihae Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
[rstewart@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rstewart@hawaii.rr.com)  
808-864-7422

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Kevin Rebelo [kevin@rebelodesign.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:41 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Please support 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.  
Kevin Rebelo  
[kevin@rebelodesign.com](mailto:kevin@rebelodesign.com)  
2703 Puuhoolai Street  
Kihei, HI 96753  
808-891-1200

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** kumu sarah [kumukeahi@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** JDL Testimony  
**Subject:** In support of Civil Unions SB 232

**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:

We here all citizens of the great of Hawai'i nei support the passage of SB232.  
We ask you to stand up for this law and pass it as soon as possible. It is long overdue.

We all believe in a separation of Church and State. No religious beliefs or interpretations of the Bible or any theology should determine the law.

This is an equal rights, civil rights issue. Our aloha state of Hawai'i should have led the nation with celebrating aloha in a civil union law!

Imua!  
Mahalo & Aloha,

Sarah Keahi  
Shawn Yuen  
Eddy Yuen  
Stan Zisk  
Janet Zisk  
Sally Hill  
Mele Welte  
Cosette Harms  
Dennis Faber  
Dai Turner  
Bob Thomas  
Roy Updike  
Bob Brooks

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:06 PM  
**To:** JDL Testimony  
**Cc:** tifoso1926@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: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Donn Viviani  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tifoso1926@hotmail.com](mailto:tifoso1926@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/24/2011

**Comments:**

If the state will allow some people to marry the person of their choice, it should allow ALL people to marry the person of their choice. This is common sense. Please vote for fairness.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
 Honolulu Hawai'i Branch  
 P.O. Box 6 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96810  
 Office (808) 599-5500 Fax (808) 840-0202  
 www.naacphawaii.org  
 naacphawaii@aol.com



January 24, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
 Chairperson Senate Committee on Judiciary  
 Hawaii State Capital  
 415 South Beretania Street  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB 232: Bill Testimony Relating to Civil Unions - In Support

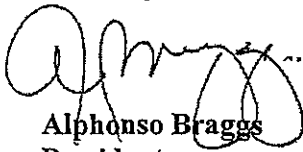
Dear Chairman Hee,

In 2005, the national board of directors authorized the following position for the NAACP. *"The NAACP shall pursue all legal and constitutional means to support non-discriminatory policies and practices against persons based on race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, or cultural background."* Therefore, the Honolulu Hawaii Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strongly supports SB 232, and urges the passage of civil unions in the state of Hawaii.

As citizens of this great democracy, Americans should enjoy equal civil rights protections and entitlements regardless of a partnership choice. This bill also emphasizes that the approval of this bill is not intended to violate or diminish any person's existing right or entitlement as an equal citizen under the law. Just as changes to voting, employment, or education entitlements did not violate or diminish the rights and entitlements of other citizens, neither will the passage of civil union legislation. The imposing question of the day remains whether or not gay rights fall into the category of civil rights. For those of us who are advocates of social justice, the prevailing answer is clearly, "Yes!"

The NAACP has been leading the effort for social justice for over 100 years. Founded in 1909, it is the oldest National civil rights organization. Our mission is to "ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

Sincerely,

  
 Alphonso Braggs  
 President

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

25, January, 2011

To the Members of the State of Hawai'i Congress:

My name is Chai Blair-Stahn and I am writing in support of SB232. Like many other individuals living in Hawai'i, as well as across the USA, and even worldwide, I am gay. No, it is not a "lifestyle" or a "choice"; it is the way I was born and is simply a fact of who I am. But it is not all of who I am; it is only one of the many parts that define me as a unique human being. I am an environmental activist, a community volunteer, a son and a brother, a student pursuing his master's degree, a student of hula, and a musician. And I also happen to be gay.

I am humbly requesting that you—my Congressmen and Congresswomen—vote in favor of SB232, not only on my behalf, but for all of the constituents who identify as gay and lesbian.

In some ways it seems a bit strange that I have to spend time writing a request such as this one. Heterosexual couples have never had to petition their government for the right to have civil unions or to marry. Men who love women or women who love men have never had to fight for legal recognition of their love, as homosexuals have. If all men (and women) are created equally, then why are we not all inherently given the same rights across the board, including this expression of love? Signing SB232 into law will move Hawai'i, and America as a whole, one step closer towards its founding values of equality, liberty and justice for all.

I am but one of hundreds of gay and lesbian community in the beautiful state of Hawai'i. We are all valuable members of society and deserve the same basic rights as the heterosexual citizens of Hawai'i.

Please, my congresswomen and congressmen, please recognize that the only right choice is to vote in favor of equality and human rights. Hawai'i is a state founded on its diversity. In spite of the many different languages and ethnic groups, we can and do live and work together in harmony. The diversity of these islands enriches us; it does not divide us. I ask that you recognize the value in sexual diversity and show the same respect and courtesy given to homosexual citizens here in Hawai'i by voting in favor of SB232. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chai Blair-Stahn

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Michael Holl [michael@eahawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 3:40 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.

Michael J. Holl  
1302 Pali Hwy  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

**From:** Mary Gross [mgross@condoready.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:37 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** I support the passage of SB232!

To: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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.**

Mary C Gross  
4605 Kuli Road, Kalaheo, HI 96741

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:10 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** abecassis\_melanie@yahoo.fr  
**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: Melanie Abecassis  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [abecassis\\_melanie@yahoo.fr](mailto:abecassis_melanie@yahoo.fr)  
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 the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Melanie Abecassis 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.

I have always supported civil unions as way to offer same-sex couples the benefits of marriage that straight people can enjoy. 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,  
Melanie

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

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 support of S.B. 232, Relating to Civil Unions. This bill is one step towards marriage equality.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Chisholm

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Rachel Dorr [rachel.dorr.86@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:14 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 whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my support of Senate Bill 232 because I support justice and equality in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Rachel Dorr

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Bryan D. Freehling [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:21 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 D. Freehling  
Lahaska, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition. 

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Kai Em. [k.ikaika.m@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:24 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In support of SB 232

I am Kaiser-Lee Ikaika Mattos, a native hawaiian and lgbt activist and I support SB 232 because I want my younger brother to know that he didn't get beaten and put in a hospital standing with me to protect our lesbian aunt for nothing. And I want her to know that I support her and her partner of 43 years 6months and 21 days. Thank you for your time and consideration. You can find my personal story as recorded by the BOE testimony I did a few days ago regarding bullying of lgbt youth in hawaii.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Rana Ah Sing [sing2rana@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:23 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.  
**Attachments:** Two Cent Testimony SB232.pages

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Dwane Rogers [Waikikibeachbum@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:33 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In SUPPORT of SB 232 Civil Unions

I, Dwane L Rogers, strongly support equality for all couples in Hawaii and urge you to support SB 232. This bill allows churches to perform Civil Union ceremonies at their discretion so is a totally non discriminatory bill.

Dwane L Rogers  
2410 Cleghorn St  
Honolulu HI 96815

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**

---

**From:** Cinde Fisher [bunnycareshi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 4:15 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Support Senate Bill 232 – Civil Unions

**Senate Bill 232 - Civil Unions**

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

Aloha Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee

I **strongly support Senate Bill 232** for Civil Unions even though I am *not* a member of the GLBT community. I see this bill as a very basic civil right, and gay couples are no less deserving of the right to love and spend their lives with whom they wish than are heterosexual couples.

Many of us cringe when we think back to the times when members of certain religions or races were forbidden from forming loving relationships, and I think there will be a time when we'll look back and shudder at how long this bill has taken to pass. To me, this has more to do with common sense and lack of prejudice than anything else, and I've never understood how anyone could feel that their own relationships might be in jeopardy because of other people's unions.

I urge *anyone*, and particularly those "straight" people like myself, who might be wondering if they should voice their opinion, to stand up and support this - because it's the right thing to do.

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Respectfully,  
Cinde Fisher  
P.O. Box 61509  
Honolulu, HI 96839  
808-381-5545

**LATE TESTIMONY  
SUPPORT**



**From:** Myron Berney [myberney@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 7:17 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** SB 232 Civil Union

SB 232

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
**TIME:** 10:00 A.M  
**PLACE:**

**Auditorium**, 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.

**COMMENTS**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

In the past we have witnessed strong opposition from various Religious Groups opposing Civil Unions for their own religious tenets [A religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof], dogma and reasons.

I happy that they have the Religious Freedom to practice their faith as they wish.  
I am also happy that we all have the Religious Freedom to practice our own faith as we wish.

**The Separation of Church and State** established by the American Revolution and the Constitution of the United States of America was unique in the world history of civilizations and States. Prior to the American Revolution the power of the kings was divine, given by God or gods. The American Revolution established that the power to govern comes from the People and shall serve the People.

Amongst the various established Liberties was the Freedom of Religion, the Separation of Church and State.

Because it is a a Religious tenet the the Legislators must, as vowed, maintain the Freedom of Religion, the Separation of Church and State in the matter of Civil Union.

May I suggest that if it is a religious reason or tenet, even if it is also your own religious reason or tenet, an Nobel Legislator would set that aside, strike it from their minds, and maintain the Freedom of Religion, the Separation of Church and State in the matter of Civil Union, as you have vowed.

Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

May all Beings be Happy and Free of Suffering  
May they all enjoy joy and peace

Shepa Dorje

PS It is also important to include process and procedures for **DIVORCE**. Whatever is put together falls apart. Do the Laws on **Domestic Violence** already cover Civil Unions or should they be updated?

**From:** Garner [gs-msm@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:08 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** SB232 Hearing 1/25/11 10am

## LATE TESTIMONY

Honorable Senator,

I acknowledge that we live in a country where people have the freedom to exercise their personal right to choose a particular lifestyle such as homosexuality. Although I do not agree with this lifestyle, I fully respect the rights of individuals to make this choice. However it is not a civil rights issue as it relates to race. There is no scientific evidence that supports homosexuality being anything more than a personal choice, decision, and lifestyle preference. This group's right to choose cannot supercede the rights and freedom of the rest of the majority who do not agree or want this lifestyle. It needs to be clear that civil unions will lead to same-sex marriage, which will lead to homosexuality being taught to my grandchildren in our educational curriculum, and who knows where it will end.

### WHY CIVIL UNIONS ARE COUNTERFEIT MARRIAGE AND BAD FOR HAWAII

□ **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. There is nothing that has changed this mandate. Civil unions are just an attempt to thwart the will of the people. This civil union proposal is an attempt to legitimize gay marriage simply by using another title. The people have also spoken through their representatives in reaching the artful compromise that established Hawaii's reciprocal beneficiary law. The law achieved the goal of providing benefits – without basing those benefits on the ill-advised sex partner status test. The people of Hawaii have put these issues behind them. The legislature should not re-open divisive, controversial battles that have already been settled by the people.

□ **Hawaii already has a reciprocal beneficiary law.** In 1997 the Reciprocal Beneficiary Act HRS §572C (RBA) became law. This law allows two persons who are legally prohibited from marrying one another under state law to register their reciprocal beneficiary relationship by filing a notarized declaration with the state director of health. The RBA affords reciprocal beneficiaries certain rights that previously were reserved to spouses, for example, standing to sue for wrongful death and other tort claims, rights to an elective share upon death, authority to make health care decisions, rights to workers' compensation benefits, rights to receive payments of wages on the death of an employee, and rights to family leave under state law. [*Shiela A. Albin, Associate General Counsel 12/9/97*]

□ **Do we want to save the "name" of marriage, or do we want to save "marriage?"** Civil unions, same-sex marriages, and domestic partnerships have the same effect of destroying marriage as we know it. When governments offer sex-partner benefits, they are essentially endorsing "gay marriage." These sex-partner benefits send the message of government sanction of such relationships and take us one short step away from legalizing "marriage" between two people of the same sex. Marriage by any other name is still marriage.

□ **Those who would redefine marriage often insist that the only necessary qualification for marriage is "love."** Yet if one accepts that rationale, then there can logically be no boundaries as to what constitutes marriage; any combination or number of consenting individuals must ultimately gain the same legal and societal sanction as traditional marriage. While love is vital, it is not the definitional element of marriage. We love many people we do not marry.

□ **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.

People should not be granted special legal protection and benefits based on their sexual preferences and behaviors.

Thank you for your kind attention. If you are truly dedicated to trying to do the will of the people, let's put it on the ballot to have the people decide.

Aloha ke Akua,

*Garner Shimizu*

*1734 Ala Aolani Place/ Honolulu HI 96819*

*Tel: (808) 839-1790*

*Cell: (808) 479-0130*

*email: [gs-msm@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gs-msm@hawaii.rr.com)*

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**COMMENTS**

Walner Alvarez [dguard00@live.com]

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
TIME: 10:00 A.M  
PLACE: Auditorium  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

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

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God  
(1 Corinthians 6: 9-10)

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah [*Genesis 19:4-5 male homosexuality*] and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.  
(Jude 1:7)

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 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. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.  
(Romans 1: 26-28)

**COMMENTS LATE TESTIMONY**

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**From:** DS [manbooks7@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 9:19 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** Civil unions testimony

Much has been said on both sides of the issue. Some say that recognizing gay couples is a matter of civil rights that are fundamental to a just society. Others believe that homosexuality is a socially deviant behavior that should, if anything, be discouraged, not endorsed. However, I believe it all comes down only to one point:

Jesus Christ either is who He said He is, our God, our Creator, and our Lord, or He is not. The Christian religion is not subjective, not just one religion among others. It is either true, or it is false. If it is false, no one needs pay attention to anything He has said or has done. If it is true, noble senators, who would dare stand against Him? I point out that Jesus, when asked about marriage, said that from the beginning, it was one man and one woman, for life. That we have gotten away from such a definition is obvious, but again, if He is who He said He is, would it not be insanity to endorse any other view?

I encourage any of you to carefully examine the evidence for the veracity of the gospel of Jesus Christ before you vote on this issue. If you have examined the evidence, and have come to the conclusion He is a fraud, well, then, vote any way you wish. If, on the other hand, the evidence points to Jesus as who He said He was, the Son of God, why would you consider any other definition of marriage than the one He himself gave us?

Dean Schmucker  
183 Ini Iniki  
Wailuku HI 96793

264-3435

**COMMENTS**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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**From:** Deborah Cohn [dtcohn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 9:10 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** dtcohn@gmail.com  
**Subject:** In Support Of SB232: Hearing Jan. 25, 2011, 10 a.m.

Aloha,

My name is Deborah Cohn, and I am writing to express my feelings on what SB232 means to citizens like me. I ask you to step into my shoes for a day. To live a life, where simply because you love someone of the same sex, you are treated less than equal. From simple everyday things like holding hands in public, to life and death things like not being able to have your partner at your side in the hospital.

I have been dreaming for the last 18 years of having acceptance and respect for my commitment to my partner. I've been waiting for the day that I could stand in front of my family and friends, proclaiming my love and my commitment to my soul mate. I have stood by over the last 40 PLUS YEARS watching my friends and family members get married. Some have had children, some not. Some have had to divorce, some not. As the years have passed, the "less than worthy" feeling I have grown accustomed to reaches deeper into my soul.

I am left to wonder why I am not allowed to have my day, my celebration of love, as I witness and enjoy that moment for other friends and family members.

I will end by quoting one of the great leaders in our lifetime, Senator Robert F. Kennedy:

"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask 'why...'  
I dream of things that never were, and ask, 'why not?'" "

And I ask you today, Representatives, "WHY NOT?"

Respectfully,  
Deborah Cohn  
Kihei, HI

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**COMMENTS**

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**From:** Caleb Laieski [Caleb@GLUAD.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:57 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** A note from a youth

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Caleb Laieski, I write to you as a 16 year old youth of Arizona. I want you to know that I am an openly gay youth and fight everyday to deter the suicide, homeless and bullying rate within the LGBT community.

It is an extremely difficult job, but whose job is easy...!

I write to express my most sincere appreciate for your consider and in full support of civil unions. I know thousands of loving couples (gay and straight) and they should all be treated equally and considered a "family."

Gay or straight...when you deal with difficulties of raising a child or dealing with a teenager (some) – they have the right to say they're a parent!

I hope to see a day of history and inspiring – I know youth, families, adults and officials are all watching and I hope we can teach our youth of today, that we committee is dedicated towards, EQUAL. Nothing more – Nothing less.

When you cast your vote....Remember, "a child is listening."

Caleb Laieski

**COMMENTS**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**From:** Nathan Paikai [npaikai@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 7:57 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB 232

THE SENATE  
LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

THE TWENTY-SIXTH

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L.

Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
TIME: 10:00

Leviticus 20:13 " If a man also lies with mankind ashe lieth with a women, both of them have committed an ABOMINATION they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" So Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Hee, Shimabukuro, Gaddard, Ihara Jr., and Senator Sam Slom, I know as a minis

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**COMMENTS**



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232**

ATTN: **Committee on Judiciary**

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

. Mike Gabbard

. 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.

Charles K. Torigoe  
20092 Kuhio Avenue #1205  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

---

**From:** Robert Strait [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 8:24 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,

Robert Strait  
Endicott, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



Testimony for SB232

Hearing Date 1/25/2011

As a mother, I support SB232 because I would not want the happiness of my child or any child to be limited by bigoted and prejudiced laws. Same sex unions harm no one and allow two people to support each other emotionally and financially to the benefit of the community. We need more people taking responsibility for their loved ones which would relieve the burden on government.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 9:20 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kamuela\_kaahanui@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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: KAMUELA KAAHANUI  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 400 HOBRON LANE #3412 HONOLULU, HI 96815  
Phone: 8083453121  
E-mail: [kamuela\\_kaahanui@yahoo.com](mailto:kamuela_kaahanui@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

**Comments:**

I fully support the passage of this legislation as every Hawai'i citizen should be afforded the same civil rights, regardless of sexual preference.

---

**From:** Cosmio Von Hatten [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 9:26 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,

Cosmio Von Hatten  
Burnaby, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** Sharon\_McFadden/KAIMUKH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 9:39 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** civil union

Please stop the civil union bill. These rights should only be granted to a man and a woman that make that commitment.

I vehemently oppose these rights to be granted to same sex couples. It is against natural law.

---

**From:** Deborah Lockett [deblockett@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 9:55 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** jadamesq@aol.com  
**Subject:** SB232

**Importance:** High

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB232**

ATTN: **Committee on Judiciary**

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara Jr.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Mike Gabbard

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.

*Deborah A. Lockett, M.P.H.*

*4348 Waiālae Ave., #506*

*Honolulu, HI 96816*

*808-389-3881*

---

**From:** Shawn Revelle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 9:57 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,

Shawn Revelle  
Kansas City, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.





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**From:** Joseph Galletta [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:02 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,

Joseph Galletta  
Washington, DC

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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** Dexter Peters [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:27 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,

Dexter Peters  
Riverton, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** Crystal Evans [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:32 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,

Crystal Evans  
Murfreesboro, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:40 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kelsyorgason@msn.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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kelsey Kamauu  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Waialua, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kelsyorgason@msn.com](mailto:kelsyorgason@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

I oppose Senate Bill 232. The definition of civil union and marriage should not be the same. Marriage is only between a man and a woman and is a specific act that grants specific rights. Please vote no on SB 232.

---

**From:** Andrew Miller [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:44 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,

Andrew Miller  
Reynoldsburg, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** Dottie Cihlar [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 11:02 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,

Dottie Cihlar  
Dallas, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 11:22 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** jmccclain2@juno.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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marta McClain  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jmccclain2@juno.com](mailto:jmccclain2@juno.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB232 for the state of Hawaii. Something this controversial and divisive should be brought to ALL the people to decide. I strongly urge you to consider this option. Let the people of Hawaii have the final say in regards to this legislation not a handful of representatives.  
Mahalo for your consideration.

---

**From:** Bryce Ageno [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 11:53 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,

Bryce Ageno  
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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.





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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 12:08 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** shaglund@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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sue Haglund  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [shaglund@hotmail.com](mailto:shaglund@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

---

**From:** Sonny Feldman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 12:11 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,

Sonny Feldman  
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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** Blair Best [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 12:32 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,

Blair Best  
Manchester, ME

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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



---

**From:** Hilary Legge [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:02 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,

Hilary Legge  
Winchester, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 1:48 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** davidhood19@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: Auditorium  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: David Hood  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [davidhood19@hotmail.com](mailto:davidhood19@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2011

Comments:

I am married to a wonderful woman, and we are very happy together in a "traditional" marriage. If a gay or lesbian couple would like to be married, and be afforded the same protections and rights that I enjoy, I give them my personal full blessing. I do not see how we can possibly discriminate against their equal rights.

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**From:** Gabriel Lopez-Allen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 2:32 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,

Gabriel Lopez-Allen  
Aurora, CO

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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.



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**From:** Deb [montypac8@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 3:20 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SB232 hearing 1/25/11 10:00 AM

I hope this will be read even though the hearing is currently being held. I was at the hearing; I believe it was in 2009. I ready my testimony. It was reported there were 10,000 people at the rally against the HB444. There were many people at that hearing in 2009 that stood up with their testimony against this bill. Even with all of that the House and the Senate passed HB444 without allowing the bill to go before the people. Then there was the election and seats changed parties. Now it appears there is a majority in the Senate who will pass the current bill, SB232 with the support of Governor Neil Abercrombie. This is NOT the will of the people. This is a few talking heads that just won't allow the system that has already been passed, be enough. The reciprocal beneficiary relationship was put into law. But now it isn't enough, there has to be more? Why?

This is NOT a civil issue. This is a social issue one that will harm many people if it is passed.

To comment on some points that were made this morning:

One man said this would boost tourism, boost the economy for the floral industry, parties and celebrations. This isn't going to boost tourism. It will be a **population explosion** by more gays, lesbians, transgenders, etc. moving into Hawaii from the states that still honor marriage between a man and a woman. People from all over the world will be coming to Hawaii. How is that going to help our economy? There isn't enough industry here now to support all the people who live here. There will be more homeless, more taxing of the healthcare system, and more people standing at the unemployment line.

One woman addressed the issue of suicides and has put the responsibility on society that discriminates against gays, lesbians, transgenders, etc. Suicide is a choice. Bullying is a choice. Not taking a stand for your choices is a choice. Society isn't responsible for anyone choosing suicide over standing up for themselves. This is a statement that takes the responsibility from the person and putting it on someone else. Cheap shot.

One person said something about churches teaching hatred. There are church leaders who are misguided and using the Bible out of context. The Bible teaches to love one another, but we do not have to agree with a person's choices. We can love the person who shoots and kills someone or who goes out on the road drunk and maims or kills someone in another car or walking on the side of the road BUT we do not condone their actions!

And the person who read the document from the U.N.? I'm not sure what she read from but, since when are we run by the U.N.? Yes, they want to give absolute power to our children, for what? There are age limits in our society for a reason. Because children don't have the capacity to make logical, safe choices for themselves. So to quote from the U.N. is just a way to cloud the issue for the U.S. or Hawaii.

And for those against SB232:

The term solemnization is a solemn ceremony or according to ritual; to perform the ceremony of (marriage, etc.) This is just another way to "muddy the waters" of the real intent. This will give way to changing the current definition of marriage. One woman even pleaded her case in which her husband had worked for over 30 years with a company, lost his job and now they have medical bills to pay. Where is the help for this family? And lastly, about the woman who presented information about a new STD in the Netherlands. When will this stop? When will we get back to the social structure put in place by our Father, God? There will be increasing numbers of diseases; there will be an epidemic of people carrying and spreading diseases as long as this behavior is allowed to be nurtured and accepted.

Please, stop SB232 before this behavior is allowed to be law and there is an epidemic that cannot be stopped; both in the medical realm and population to this island.

Sincerely,

Debra Montoya  
808-349-8804  
4823 E Ekolu Way Apt. A  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

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**From:** Rae Azura [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 3:56 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,

Rae Azura  
New York, NY

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**From:** Jeffrey Harwood [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 4:02 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,

Jeffrey Harwood  
Memphis, 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](http://www.change.org/petitions/view/tell_hawaii_-_you_support_civil_unions). To respond, email [responses@change.org](mailto:responses@change.org) and include a link to this petition.

