

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

LATE TESTIMONY

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

H.B. 2569, Relating to Civil Unions

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

January 31, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** Strong support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** N.A.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** House Bill 2569, Relating to Civil Unions, is part of Governor
4 Abercrombie Administrative Bill package and supports the New Day goals of investing in people and
5 transforming government. This bill proposes several critical amendments to assure parity between
6 traditional marriages and civil unions including legal status, rights, benefits, privileges, protections, and
7 responsibilities.

8

9 House Concurrent Resolution 205 requested the Department of Health to establish a task force to guide
10 implementation of Act 1, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011. The purpose of the task force was to assist the
11 department in the complex challenge of registering civil unions in a timely and expeditious manner.

12

13 In the course of that work, the task force identified several technical and legal issues requiring
14 clarification and consistency throughout statutes. HB2569, commonly referred to as the "civil union fix

1 bill," reflects task force findings including but not limited to reciprocal beneficiary relationships,
2 issuance of licenses, eligibility requirements for solemnization, and collection of fees.

3

4 The Department of Health continues to work with community stakeholders to refine certain aspects of
5 this proposal and will be submitting amended language based on their input. We wish to thank the
6 Legislature and task force members for their time and interest on this important issue. DOH defers to
7 the Office of the Attorney General regarding amendments to the bill to address any legal concerns.

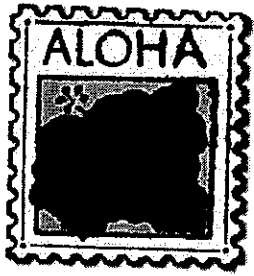
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9 We respectfully urge this committee to pass House Bill 2569.

10

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

12



Holly J. Huber

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LATE TESTIMONY

TO: House Judiciary Committee
Hearing on January 31st in room 325 @ 2 PM

FROM: Holly J. Huber

DATE: January 31, 2012

RE: In support of HB2569
Regarding Civil Unions

Mahalo nui loa for hearing HB2569 and revisiting this important issue in order to clarify and correct some language.

This bill allows couples who are currently reciprocal beneficiaries to easily enter into a civil union without delay. This is important for couples and families with minor children who may be left vulnerable if there is a gap in insurance coverage or change in status. No one should be penalized for having a reciprocal beneficiary and wishing to convert it to a civil union.

HB2569 also includes important changes to the rules regarding solemnization of civil unions.

Please vote in favor of HB2569!

Testimony for HB2569 on 1/31/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:18 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: Strider4Jesus@aol.com

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JUD 1/31/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2569

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Strider Didymus
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Strider4Jesus@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

HB 2569

Status

RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS.

Amends various statutory provisions related to civil unions and conforming amendments to recognize civil unions; deletes the eligibility requirement for a civil union requiring termination of an existing reciprocal beneficiary relationship, except for out-of-state unions recognized in the State as civil unions; authorizes any licensing agent statewide to issue a civil union license; authorizes the Department of Health to collect fees for civil union licenses to allow for application online; conforms the information collected by civil union solemnizers to the information collected by marriage solemnizers; makes a reciprocal beneficiary relationship automatically terminate upon either party entering into a civil union; authorizes civil union partners to change their names on the certificate of civil union; and confirms that the family court has jurisdiction over the divorce, annulment, and separation of partners to a union that is recognized as a civil union in this State. JUD, FIN

TESTIMONY

I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to any bill (specifically HB 2569 here) relating to the so called "Civil Unions," in that homosexuality is a perverse act, a detriment to family and society, and a abomination of God; thus subject to eternal damnation by those who engage in such.

For it is written in the Holy Bible, "The sexually immoral...their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." (Revelation 21:8) and "In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example for those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire." (Jude 7)

Be advised that his Judiciary Committee, whose members (as with other legislators) who have shown support for such despicable legislation has shown a flagrant disregard for the will of the people and God, and you too shall be held accountable for it one day for,

"Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things, but also approve of those who practice them." (Romans 1:32)

Now in reference to this bill which would REMOVE the following from the bottom of page 3 and the top of page 4:

"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 the failure or refusal."

This is a clear violation of religious rights as protected under the following:

1) The United States Constitution:

Amendment 1 - Freedom of Religion, Press,

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

2) The Constitution of the State of Hawaii:

Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly and Petition

Section 4. No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

For the record, there is no such thing as "The Separation of Church and State," contrary to atheist antagonizes, nor is homosexuality a "Civil Right" as identified by the following unknown source:

"The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, adopted after the Civil War, were designed to eliminate legal discrimination against blacks in the wake of over two centuries of slavery. The 15th Amendment mentions race and color explicitly, declaring that "the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged . . . on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."⁴³ "National origin" would be comparable to "race" and "color" in this respect.

The constitutional amendment process was explicitly used in 1920 to give women the right to vote, which they had been denied for most of our nation's history. The 19th Amendment, using language directly parallel to that of the 15th regarding race,

declared that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged . . . on account of sex."

Be advised that our nation's first President, George Washington, also once stated that, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

President Abraham Lincoln would later say that, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

President Andrew Jackson would also state that, "That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests."

Lastly, Daniel Webster once stated, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our prosperity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

In the name, power and authority of Jesus Christ, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, God and Savior; you are hereby warned to refrain from pursuing any further legislative actions that will undermine God's Sovereign Word and the Judeo-Christian principles in which our Nations forefathers established.

Members please vote "NO" to this bill.

Servant and Messenger of God, Disciple of Christ

Strider Didymus

January 31, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

January 31, 2012

Testimony in Support of HB2569 Relating to Civil Unions

Hawaii House Judiciary Committee Hearing

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

To House Judiciary Chair Gil Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I'm writing testimony in support of HB 2569 relating to civil unions. I'm glad that the Hawai'i State Legislature passed the civil unions bill in 2011 which was signed by Governor Abercrombie. It was a privilege for me to witness four same-gender couples entering in a civil union on January 1st. I was aware that one of those couples had to terminate their reciprocal beneficiary relationship before entering in a civil union which is one of the provisions this bill will correct for those entering into civil unions.

I am currently in a reciprocal beneficiary relationship with my partner, which we obtained in 1998. We have our own health insurance plans so that the gap in coverage would not be an issue for us if we chose to enter in a civil union today. However, I support the provision in this bill that would terminate a reciprocal beneficiary relationship once a couple has entered into a civil union so that that health care benefits, as well as other reciprocal beneficiary benefits would not be lost while a couple is in the process of entering in a civil union. I also support the other "housekeeping" changes to civil unions regarding the collection of fees for civil union licenses, the authorization to change names for civil union partners on the certificate of a civil union, and that family court has jurisdiction over the divorce, annulment, and separation of partners in a civil union.

Again, I urge you to support HB2569 which would "fix" some of the challenges encountered during the implementation of civil unions in Hawai'i. Although civil unions are a step towards toward equality for LGBT people, I am hoping marriage will be legal for same gender couples to achieve full equality as citizens in this State.

Sincerely,

Gene Corpuz
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