

Testimony for SB2571 on 3/16/2012 2:00:00 PM

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

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 9:21 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: pongia@hotmail.com

Attachments: SB2571 Testimony.doc (26 KB)

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JUD 3/16/2012 2:00:00 PM SB2571

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wendy Vaka

Organization: Individual

E-mail: pongia@hotmail.com

Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

SB2571

I strongly oppose SB2571. It is a severe violation of my religious rights to practice my religion. I feel that this bill is forcing other's beliefs into my own religious practice. The bill may require my religious facility to perform marriages for same sex couples. Myself and my religious institution is strongly opposed to same sex marriage.

We believe that it is against God's principles. As we revere our buildings as Holy or Sacred places of worship, the performance of these marriages would stain the building and take away the Holiness or the Sacredness of the place of worship.

Therefore, we would have no place to go that we can feel is sacred and holy. Also, we do not feel that our church building is the same as a public place. The members feel that the place is a place where God would be so we feel a strong urge to take care of the place and keep it a holy place. I hope that we are not forced to abandon our very religion because we have no place to worship. It would be like England forcing us to practice religion how they practice or even the Soviet Union who took away no religion. From this History, we can see that taking away religion does not help the people.



LATE TESTIMONY
Chaminade University
OF HONOLULU

March 16, 2012

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert Keith Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Re: Comments on SB 2571, SD1 Relating to Domestic Relations
Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2012, 2 p.m. Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 S.
Beretania Street

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members

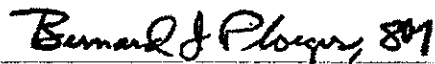
On behalf of Chaminade University of Honolulu, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments related to SB 2571, SD1 (Relating to Domestic Relations), and I thank the House Committee on Judiciary for considering these comments.

The aforementioned legislation seeks to add clarity to the original intent of Act 1 (2011). One area of deficiency that requires clarity is the lack of protections of religious institutions in the use of their property. SB 2571, SD1 must protect religious organizations and religious-affiliated organizations by including a clear and strong exception that allows such organizations to practice their religion by limiting use of their properties for activities consistent with their beliefs.

We ask that a religious exemption be inserted to SB 2571, SD1 similar in language to the exemption stated in HB 2569, HD2 (§489), but with added clarification to include religious organizations AND religious-affiliated organizations. This critical insertion will serve to ensure the First Amendment's guarantee of the right of assembly and freedom of religion.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, PhD
President

LATE TESTIMONY

Colette Y. Machado
P.O. Box 143
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Email to: JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: March 16, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room #325

DATE: March 13, 2012

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

FROM: Colette Y. Machado

RE: Opposition to SB 2571 SD1 Relating to Domestic Relations

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Myron Akutagawa of Moloka'i. I am representing myself and my 'ohana. I am opposed to SB 2571 SD1 relating to domestic relations.

I strongly believe, it is my opinion that the legalization of these "unions" were just a step toward the legal recognition of same-sex "marriage" in Hawaii. Recent news stories and even public statements by supporters of civil unions have reiterated the fact that they are not satisfied.

The stated purpose of this bill is to fix deficiencies in Act 001 (2011). One serious deficiency with Act 001 is the lack of protections of religious institutions in the use of their property. You remedied that deficiency in HB 2659 HD1 and we appreciated that inclusion; however, we strongly disagree with the placement of the protection language under public accommodations in HD2 as Churches are NOT public accommodations.

If you must pass this bill out of committee, we ask that you add into this bill (SB 2571 SD1) the same protections to HRS Chapter 572B as you did in HB 2659 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

Myron R. Akutagawa
HC-01 Box 741
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Email to: JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: March 16, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room #325

DATE: March 13, 2012

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

FROM: Myron R. Akutagawa

RE: Comments on SB 2571 SD1 Relating to Domestic Relations

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Myron Akutagawa of Moloka'i. I am representing myself and my 'ohana. I am opposed to SB 2571 SD1 relating to domestic relations.

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The stated purpose of this bill is to fix deficiencies in Act 001 (2011). One serious deficiency with Act 001 is the lack of protections of religious institutions in the use of their property. You remedied that deficiency in HB 2659 HD1 and we appreciated that inclusion; however, we strongly disagree with the placement of the protection language under public accommodations in HD2 as Churches are NOT public accommodations.

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