



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE RESOLUTION 123 and SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 166, REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A
TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND RELIGIOUS
IMPACTS OF ENACTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN HAWAII**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 25, 2013, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of SR 123 and SCR 166, relating to marriage equality.

As advocates for social equality and civil rights, we fully support measures that move Hawaii toward instituting marriage equality. While we are saddened that the State Legislature decided not to hear, much less advance, a bill legalizing same-sex marriage during the 2013 legislative session, we are confident that the task force called for by this bill will conclude that marriage equality will have a positive impact on Hawaii. We note that a 2013 report prepared by University of Hawaii economist Sumner La Croix found that legalizing same-sex marriage would inject \$46 million to \$258 million into Hawaii's economy. More importantly, such a law would end discrimination against into same-sex couples, whose attraction to one another has been shown to be primarily based on biological and developmental factors—the basis for relationships and attraction, no matter what they may be, *should not* be used a barrier to expanding civil rights. Put simply, institutionalized religion should not trump individual rights when it comes to enacting just public policy. That said, we encourage the committee to include the Attorney General or Attorney General's designee, Department of Taxation or DoTax's designee, and Chair of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission or chair's designee to the list of task

force members, thereby ensuring that the executive's legal, financial, and labor rights expertise is represented in considerations of the sensitive issues involved in marriage equality discussions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance



LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support of SCR No. 166 and SR 123

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

March 25, 2013, 10:30 am

Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the JDL Committee:


On behalf of the Young Democrats of Hawaii, I am writing to ask for your support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123, which seek to convene a task force to study the social, economic and religious impacts of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Over the past twenty years, Hawaii – and the entire nation – has seen a shift in public attitudes towards support for our gay and lesbian friends and family members. A poll conducted statewide of registered Hawaii voters revealed that 55% favor marriage equality, while 37% oppose. Our entire Congressional Delegation supports marriage equality. Our Governor supports marriage equality. And the President of the United States announced his support for marriage equality before being elected to a second term.

The requested task force represents a diverse group of interests and legal scholars, and requires them to study the effects of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii. The task force is quite timely given the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *United States v. Windsor* (regarding the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)), and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (regarding the constitutionality of California's ballot initiative banning same-sex marriages known as Proposition 8). It is in the best interest of all residents of Hawaii for the legislature to be prepared to address the legal realities for same-sex couples here after the U.S. Supreme Court issues its rulings.

We are hopeful that the information that this Task Force will provide additional information to educate the Legislature on marriage equality and contribute to the passage of marriage equality legislation in the future.

With Aloha,


Francis H. Choe
President

The Young Democrats of Hawaii represent over 1500 registered Young Democrats, between the ages of 16 and 35. We strive to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs, promote their involvement in the political process, increase the political strength of young people, and provide the highest degree of social justice and equal opportunity for Hawaii's people.

www.ydhi.org | www.facebook.com/YoungDemsHI | [@YoungDemsHI](https://twitter.com/YoungDemsHI)

LATE TESTIMONY

Kristin Young

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 10:17 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mgolojuch@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR166 on Mar 25, 2013 10:30AM*

SCR166

Submitted on: 3/24/2013
Testimony for JDL on Mar 25, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch, Jr.	Honolulu Pride	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Kristin Young

From: Raina Itagaki [r.itagaki@icloud.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 11:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony of Raina Itagaki in Support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R.123

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Raina Itagaki and I am writing in support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123, which seek to convene a task force to study the social, economic and religious impacts of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Over the past twenty years, Hawaii – and the entire nation – has seen a shift in public attitudes towards support for our gay and lesbian friends and family members. Many Hawaii residents support marriage equality. Our entire Congressional Delegation supports marriage equality. Our Governor supports marriage equality. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced her support for gay marriage and President Barak Obama announced his support for marriage equality before being elected to a second term.

The requested task force represents a diverse group of interests and legal scholars, and requires them to study the effects of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii. The task force is quite timely given the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *United States v. Windsor* (regarding the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)), and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (regarding the constitutionality of California's ballot initiative banning same-sex marriages known as Proposition 8). It is in the best interest of all residents of Hawaii for the legislature to be prepared to address the legal realities for same-sex couples here after the U.S. Supreme Court issues its rulings.

We believe that the information from the task force will provide the background information needed to educate the Legislature on marriage equality.

Mahalo for your time,
Raina

Sent from Rai's iPad

From: TNR [tifnrai@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 11:10 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Testimony for Tiffany Kim in support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Tiffany Kim and I am writing in support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123, which seek to convene a task force to study the social, economic and religious impacts of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Over the past twenty years, Hawaii – and the entire nation – has seen a shift in public attitudes towards support for our gay and lesbian friends and family members. Many Hawaii residents support marriage equality. Our entire Congressional Delegation supports marriage equality. Our Governor supports marriage equality. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced her support for gay marriage and President Barak Obama announced his support for marriage equality before being elected to a second term.

The requested task force represents a diverse group of interests and legal scholars, and requires them to study the effects of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii. The task force is quite timely given the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *United States v. Windsor* (regarding the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)), and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (regarding the constitutionality of California's ballot initiative banning same-sex marriages known as Proposition 8). It is in the best interest of all residents of Hawaii for the legislature to be prepared to address the legal realities for same-sex couples here after the U.S. Supreme Court issues its rulings.

We believe that the information from the task force will provide the background information needed to educate the Legislature on marriage equality.

Mahalo for your time,
Tiffany Kim

Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71 • Kapolei, HI 96707-1340
Cell: 808 779-9078 • fax: 808 672-6347 • email: gomama808@gmail.com

March 25, 2013

Testimony in Strong Opposition: SR 123/SCR 166

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Rev. Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, MSW

Re: Social, Economic, and Religious Impacts of Enacting Marriage Equality in Hawaii

As a Master's Level Social Worker, I strongly oppose SR 123 and SCR 166 for Social, Economic, and Religious Impacts of Enacting Marriage Equality in Hawaii on the grounds that further studies are unnecessary because there are standing studies that already address the issues named in these resolutions and will cost Hawaii funds that are so badly needed for other state requirements: education, help for the homeless and additional budgetary items.

1) Hawaii has a history of studies already completed, such as the **1995 Blue Ribbon Panel** commissioned by former Governor Ben Cayetano on Same Gender Marriage that found no inherent harm would be done to Hawaii when social justice would be reality for our GLBT community. I have a gay son who deserves the same marriage rights that my husband, Mike and I have enjoyed for the past 47+ years. <http://www.nytimes.com/1995/12/11/us/panel-in-hawaii-recommends-legalizing-same-sex-marriage.html>

2) There is the **1996 study by the Hawaii Council of Churches** that states

- a) the Jewish tradition (1996, the Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis resolved to the support the right of gay and lesbian couples to share fully and equally in the rights of civil marriage, "oppose governmental efforts to ban gay and lesbian marriage," and further that "this is a matter of civil law, and is separate from the question of rabbinic officiation at such marriages.");
- b) the Buddhist (Buddhist principles which would serve to show that same gender relationships and the rights that follow from them, such as marriage, can be positive in assisting a person to discover their own true nature and to realize the depth of their spiritual potentiality.);
- c) the United Church of Christ General Synod (declares its support for the enactment of legislation at the federal, state, and local levels of government that would guarantee the liberties of all persons without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preferences.);
- d) the Episcopal Church (1976 affirmed that "homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law.; in 1991 reaffirm w/further resolution 'upon municipal councils, state legislatures and the United States Congress to approve measures giving gay and lesbian couples protection such as: bereavement and family leave policies, health benefits, pension benefits, real estate transfer tax benefits, and commitments to mutual support enjoyed by non-gay married couples.");
- e) The United Methodist Church (Book of Discipline 1992: "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to support those rights and liberties for homosexual persons.");
- f) The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (urge(s) the passage of legislation on local, state and national levels which will end denial of civil rights and the violation of civil liberties for reasons of sexual preference, and calls upon ");
- g) The Unitarian Universalist Association ('1996 General Assembly "in support of the legal recognition for marriage between members of the same sex;" and urging its "member congregations to proclaim the worth of marriage between any two committed persons and to make this position known in their home communities.");
- h) The Presbyterian Church ("recognized that committed same-sex partners seek equal civil liberties in a contractual relationship with all the civil rights and privileges and status of married couples." The General

Assembly further urged the office of the Stated Clerk to explore the feasibility of entering friend-of-the-court briefs and support legislation in favor of giving civil rights to same-sex partners.");

3) There is the **2010 UCLA "Economic impact of allowing same-sex marriage in Hawaii"** that addresses the economic impacts.

4) There is the **2013 American Academy of Pediatrics study (AAP)** The AAP policy statement, "Promoting the Well-Being of Children Whose Parents Are Gay or Lesbian," which supports civil marriage for same-gender couples – as well as full adoption and foster care rights for all parents, regardless of sexual orientation – as the best way to guarantee benefits and security for their children. This is a professional study with empirical data that address the social issues of adoption and foster care for the best interest of ALL our keiki and their families.

In the beginning of the 1990's Hawaii started a journey for Civil Rights, Social Justice started in Hawaii. Other states dreamt about it but Hawaii did something about it. There was the

It is said in "**Same-Gender Marriage and Religious Freedom**" by the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy President, Interfaith Alliance:

"In our nation, however, issues of social acceptability and civic equality have a secure foundation independent of religion. That foundation is called the United States Constitution. Informing that document and standing alongside it is the force of the Declaration of Independence that, as far back as 1776, trumpeted to the world that "all men are created equal . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." The founders of this nation did not encumber basic rights and liberties with a requirement of affirmation from any religion. Their resolute compliance with core democratic values prevailed despite differences in opinions about religion and beliefs shaped by religion. The founders launched this grand experiment in democracy in order to find ways to work together for the betterment of this government and for assurances of liberty and justice for all of their present and future fellow patriots."

Please save Hawaii and our LGBT community any more time and money by refusing to pass this resolution that is unnecessary due to the variety of studies already complete. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

The Social Justice History of Hawaii is in your hands.

"If more people believed in justice, equality would be reality." cmg

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: March 25, 2013, 10:30 am
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony of Renie Lindley in Support of S.C.R. 166
and S.R.123

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Renie Lindley and I am writing in support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123, which seek to convene a task force to study the social, economic and religious impacts of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Over the past twenty years, Hawaii – and the entire nation – has seen a shift in public attitudes towards support for our gay and lesbian friends and family members. Many Hawaii residents support marriage equality. Our entire Congressional Delegation supports marriage equality. Our Governor supports marriage equality. And the President of the United States announced his support for marriage equality before being elected to a second term.

The requested task force represents a diverse group of interests and legal scholars, and requires them to study the effects of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii. The task force is quite timely given the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *United States v. Windsor* (regarding the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)), and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* (regarding the constitutionality of California's ballot initiative banning same-sex marriages known as Proposition 8). It is in the best interest of all residents of Hawaii for the legislature to be prepared to address the legal realities for same-sex couples here after the U.S. Supreme Court issues its rulings.

I believe that the information from the task force will provide the background information needed to educate the Legislature on marriage equality.

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: March 25, 2013, 10:05 am

Place: Conference Room _016_

Re: *Testimony of Bob Kincaid in Support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R.123*

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor; my name is Bob Kincaid and I am writing in support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123, which seek to convene a task force to study the social, economic and religious impacts of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii.

The Maui Pride Organization's mission is to promote the acceptance and celebration of every person in Hawaii, with special focus on the LGBT community. I am the current Chair of the Maui Pride Organization and hereby submit testimony to encourage the formation of this task force and ultimately passage of full marriage equality in Hawaii.

I am a gay man that is in a loving relationship with another gay man for 4 years. So in love are we, that we were entered in to a domestic partnership in the great state of Oregon and my husband took my last name to be his as well. We are very committed to each other and to our community where we reside, here on Maui. Last year, we became foster parents and have taken several cases as our way of supporting our belief in marriage equality and loving family values. This week, the judge involved in our most recent case stated for the public record how exemplary our 'household with two dads' is and beneficial for our latest foster child. We felt proud of that recognition and acknowledgement of the work we've done in Maui Youth and Family Services.

I mention the story of our foster children because I firmly believe that our ability to be fully married has a deep and positive social impact on our community. The benefits of full marriage equality are long overdue for the loving and caring people of Hawaii.

As Chair of Maui Pride, I can also attest to the economic benefits of full marriage equality to all people of Hawaii. Annually, the Maui Pride organization holds a weekend long pride festival in October where I have seen dozens of couples that have traveled to Maui to experience our true aloha nature. Many have enquired at the Maui Pride booth about full marriage passage here as they would love to wed in paradise.

Not only will full marriage equality promote more tourism and revenue for this beautiful state, it will also strengthen our economy with more family structures of the residents of Hawaii. This can only result in contributing to the cohesiveness of our entire community here on Maui and the rest of Hawaii. And we all know that strong communities are also strong economies.

The formation and hard work of this task force is essential to the process of consideration by the Hawaiian Legislature in passage of full marriage equality. The Maui Pride Organization implores you to take this next step in this much needed legislative process.

Mahalo nui loa,
Bob Kincaid, Chair
Maui Pride Organization



Citizens for Equal Rights

2343 Kula Kōlea Drive
Honolulu, HI 96819
808-271-7833

LAIE TESTIMONY

Monday, March 25, 2013 Time 10:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

RE: SR 123 / SCR 166 – Marriage Equality – IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

My name is Tambry Young. I am the President of Citizens for Equal Rights. I was one of the lead advocates for the passage of civil unions in 2011 and served as a member of the Civil Union Implementation Task Force. I am Native Hawaiian, born and raised here in Hawaii. My wife Suzanne and I were married in 2009 in Massachusetts and have been together for 32 years. We have a 13 year old daughter, Shylar, and in 1999 we were granted one of the first co-parent adoptions in Family Court in Hawaii. Our family was also the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit *Young v. Lingle* in 2010 when HB 444 was vetoed by then Governor Linda Lingle.

While I do believe that an issue such as marriage equality, which would provide federal benefits to families like ours, should not have to resort to the need for a task force, I am in support of this resolution if it will assist in creating a better understanding of particular issues surrounding the passage of marriage equality legislation here in our home state of Hawaii.

It would be my hope that this task force would yield an outcome that gives legislators the justification and confidence that they are standing on the right side of this historic civil rights issue. As we can see, the world is moving in the right direction and it does seem that in the near future marriage equality will be part of our everyday life and I look forward to the day when that will happen.

I would like to offer a suggestion that the community organization task force member be someone who represents the broad voice of Hawaii's LGBT families; has been in a long-term committed relationship and is in a civil union in Hawaii; can share the knowledge of the impact of having multi-generations of LGBT family members; is in touch with and can speak for local families impacted by civil unions and marriage equality and its impact on children; and has been involved in the legal and legislative fight for LGBT rights in Hawaii. The individual should also have the capability to understand the multiple dynamics and viewpoints that exist when dealing with an issue such as marriage equality.

Through this process, we have been humbled to have been asked by countless families and friends to be their voice before you in representing their needs. It is unfortunate that so many of our local families still feel they cannot speak openly to protect their families and that has given our family the courage and commitment to continue to speak before you and the community regarding this civil and equal rights issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Tambry R. Young

President - Citizens for Equal Rights

From: Peter Schaktman [rabbischaktman@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 5:31 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Fwd: Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Categories: Red Category

Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: March 25, 2013, 10:30 am
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: *Testimony of Rabbi Peter Schaktman in Support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R.123*

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Rabbi Peter Schaktman and I am writing in support of S.C.R. 166 and S.R. 123, which seek to convene a task force to study the social, economic and religious impacts of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Over the past twenty years, Hawaii – and the entire nation – has seen a shift in public attitudes towards support for our gay and lesbian friends and family members. Many Hawaii residents support marriage equality. Our entire Congressional Delegation supports marriage equality. Our Governor supports marriage equality. And the President of the United States announced his support for marriage equality before being elected to a second term.

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We believe that the information from the task force will provide the background information needed to educate the Legislature on marriage equality.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Peter Schaktman

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Be a part of the conversation. Pull up a chair at the Honolulu Rabbi's Round Table:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HonoluluRabbi/>