



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2016**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016
10:00 A.M.**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2615 S.D.1
RELATING TO MINORS**

**TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2615 S.D.1, Relating to Minors. My name is Daria Loy-Goto and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers the following comments on the bill.

Senate Bill No. 2615 S.D.1 amends Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling services from

engaging in or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under eighteen years of age. The bill also provides that licensees who violate the new section will be subject to disciplinary action.

RICO agrees with the comments offered by the Department's Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, suggesting any provisions be placed in the respective chapters of the affected professions.

RICO additionally notes the bill as currently drafted would be difficult to enforce because the bill contains certain terms and phrases that RICO believes to be vague and ambiguous. Specifically, although the bill identifies certain licensees, such as psychologists, mental health counselors, and social workers who would be subject to the prohibition against engaging in or advertising sexual orientation efforts, this list is not exhaustive and includes anyone who provides "professional counseling." As the Committee is aware, RICO has oversight over licensed professions and vocations and requests clarification that the bill's provisions apply solely to licensees.

Additionally, RICO believes the use of the term "specializing" is also problematic. The bill identifies a "physician specializing in the practice of psychiatry" as a class of licensee who would be prohibited from certain conduct under the bill. RICO believes it would be difficult to objectively determine whether or not a physician is specializing in psychiatry.

Senate Bill No. 2615 S.D.1 also provides that a person licensed to provide counseling services shall not advertise the offering of sexual orientation change

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2615 S.D.1
February 26, 2016
Page 3

efforts. However, the bill does not define or explain what constitutes advertising such that it is unclear what conduct would trigger disciplinary action.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2615 S.D.1.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
www.cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, February 26, 2016
10:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2615, S.D. 1, RELATING TO MINORS.

TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments on Senate Bill No. 2615, S.D. 1, Relating to Minors.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2615, S.D. 1, is to prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on students and persons under eighteen years of age. The measure also provides that in addition to the disciplinary sanctions, advertising the offering of sexual orientation change efforts shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice.

While the Department has no comments on the merits of the bill, the Department has concerns with the approach taken in SECTION 2 of the bill in using Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"). Chapter 436B, HRS, is the overall encompassing HRS chapter which applies to ALL of the professions and vocations within the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. Chapter 436B, HRS, captures more than health care related professions, such as barbers, contractors, electricians, and plumbers, to name a few examples. Although the Senate Draft 1 version of this measure lists a number of professions to which the restrictions would apply, it is inappropriate to place in a statute which is the Model Act with general applicability to various non-health-related professions like veterinarians, engineers, and real estate brokers and salespersons. Should this bill move forward, the Department suggests that the language in SECTION 2 of the bill be placed, instead, in each of the respective chapters of the professions that are listed in the measure.

Moreover, because this new section is placed in Chapter 436B, HRS, the bill is ambiguous as to whether the language regarding Section 480-2, HRS, on page 3 lines 15-18 of the bill applies only to those licensees identified in subsection (a) of the bill or to all persons. If the bill and its restrictions are intended to apply only to Hawaii licensed professionals, the Department notes that the bill may have unintended consequences, in that it may shift or encourage sexual orientation change efforts to be conducted only by individuals or entities that are not licensed professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2615,
S.D. 1.



February 26, 2016

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Conference Romm 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT—SB 2615 SD1 Relating to Minors

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA) strongly supports SB 2615 to protect children from exposure to potential harm, both physical and psychological, that may result from attempted conversion therapy. Sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) are not supported by research and heavily criticized in the media by former participants. As a professional organization that supports the ethical application of treatment and self-determination, we support efforts to ensure minors in the state of Hawai'i are protected.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Koba-Burd, M.S., BCBA, LBA

President, Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA)

president@hawaiiaba.org

Hawaiiaba.org



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Hearing on: Friday, February 26, 2016
Conference Room #016

DATE: February 25, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Opposition to SB 2615 SD1 Relating to Minors

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. We oppose this bill because we believe that this bill violates the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. Parents should have the right to choose their child's education, provide appropriate and professional health care services, and practice their religion in accordance to their faith.

It is incomprehensible that on one hand parents would have the right to seek professional counseling for a child with impulse control disorders like kleptomania, compulsive gambling, addiction to drugs or pornography, and then on the other hand be prohibited from accessing licensed health professionals who are trained to help their son or daughter dealing with their unwanted same-sex attraction issues. Especially in the horrific instance of sexual abuse which may cause confusion as the child develops.

If a young person is experiencing conflict between his or her sincerely held religious beliefs and same-sex attractions, this law could also prevent their minister, who may also be a trained and licensed counselor or therapist, from providing care. This counseling typically involves common and standard therapeutic goals, such as eliminating unwanted behavior, developing healthy connections with both men and women, bringing truth and healing to any past injuries and abuse, and building a solid and confident sense of identity. Credible, licensed professional mental health workers do not use force, coercion or aversion therapies with minors; if any therapist did, there are already remedies within the mental health professions. This bill attempts to ban something that does not take place.

By prohibiting licensed professional counselors from treating same-sex attraction as anything but "acceptance, support, and understanding," the law unconstitutionally infringes on their freedom of religion. The term conversion therapy is so broad it could mean anything, and that is just not good public policy. This is simply an issue of fairness - minors (with support and guidance from their parents) should be free to choose the professional and licensed counselor that can best treat them. Their religious freedom and convictions, however, should not be denied in the process. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

A 501(C) (4) organization associated with Hawaii Family Forum

ONLINE TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor
Decision making on February 26, 2016 @ 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room #016

DATE: February 25, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. President & CEO, Hawaii Family Advocates

RE: Strong Opposition to SB 2615 Relating to Minors; Conversion Therapy; Sexual Orientation.

My name is James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr., and I have been an attorney, state family and circuit court judge and lieutenant governor of the State of Hawaii. I am currently, the President and CEO of Hawaii Family Advocates, a 501(c) (4) non-profit organization. Along with our community associate Hawaii Family Forum; we have a strong opposition to this bill.

Our first objection to this bill is the vague and difficult differentiation between what is and what is not *sexual orientation change* therapy. Compound this with the unspecified *appropriate disciplinary action* that a practitioner will face if he/she provides *sexual orientation change* therapy to a minor and this bill creates a very chilling effect on most if not all practitioners. This will then have the additional effect of limiting the amount of practitioners who will be available to minors (who are finding themselves on many other issues in today's world) who do have issues/questions relating to whether their feelings, practice, and/or relationships relating to their sexual orientation is right or wrong, regardless of this bill's policy. Moreover, because of this bill's policy that being a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, it appears that health insurance would not cover any medical therapy relating to sexual orientation issues.

Second, one can logically argue that this bill is a *conversion bill* that encourages and facilitates a person to becoming a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and prohibits a minor who has sexual identity questions about heterosexuality from receiving therapy. This bill prohibits therapy for a minor who has sexual identity questions and wants to come to grips with his or her sexual identity, since the bill limits sexual orientation therapy to "acceptance, support and understanding or a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support and identity exploration", in short therapy that "does not seek to change sexual orientation". The following sums up my argument. It is an excerpt from a Midweek article:

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES

A 501(C) (4) organization associated with Hawaii Family Forum

I went to a weekend retreat where I encountered probably ten different staff/counselors, and I experienced two different therapists in L.A. Every single encounter was low pressure – it wasn't to convince me of anything but rather to help me explore all sides. It is not every person who is ready to jump into homosexuality and feels they are definitely gay. Most people believe there's a spectrum and people fall onto different sides of it. So for those who are unsure as **I was, why is it that affirming homosexuality is the only one that is fine and can cause no harm, and exploring heterosexuality is the dangerous one?** Like any therapy, it depends on the practitioner. For me it's exactly what I needed. I saw a counselor for 18 months in L.A. He was wonderful, understanding and patient guy with no agenda – straight or gay outcome was fine with him and me.

Third, this bill infringes upon a parent's constitutional right relating to their practice of faith and religion and usurps their parental rights and responsibility in raising their children. In short, this bill prohibits parents from raising their child in accordance to their family values and spiritual beliefs relating to sexuality. Parents would be prohibited from taking their children to a professional licensed counselor, psychologist, social worker, or pastor because their religious values, principles, beliefs, and practices are based upon a finding that being a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender is a disorder, sin, and/or immoral, and requires counseling and/or therapeutic treatment. This we submit is a blatant infringement on parent's and children's constitutional rights to religious freedom.

Lastly, as a family and circuit court judge I can recount many cases in which sexual orientation/identity issues were a vital factor in delinquency, alcohol, drug, and domestic abuse. The above quote from the Midweek Article was common in my dealings with young adults and adolescents. These conditions in many instances were a result of a failure to address and/or resolve sexual orientation/identity issues at its onset. Simply put many young people seriously question whether their sexual orientation/identity issues are immoral, wrong, right, or normal. These issues relating to sexual orientation/identity are fluid and a mixture of spiritual, practical, psychological, emotional, and cognitive issues that cannot be isolated and prohibited from addressing at any age, especially by minors. These cases are replete with individuals who thought they were gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transsexual as a minor, who have come to a resolution, after therapy, that they are heterosexual and that their drug and/or alcohol abuse was used to mask this incorrect or mistaken identity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our opposition.

P.O. Box 2757 • Honolulu, HI 96803 • Phone: 808-429-4872

E-mail: info@hffaction.org | Website: www.hffaction.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 2615 – RELATING TO MINORS

by

Shaun Campbell and Joyce Charles, Honolulu Council of MoveOn.org

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Friday, February 26, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

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

The Honolulu Council of MoveOn.org strongly supports S.B. 2615. We defer to the fields of medicine, science, and law within the U.S., specifically the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Counseling Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the American Academy of Physician Assistants, as well the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that find it not only impossible, but also deeply unethical, and, in instances, mentally and physically torturous to try to change sexual orientations of individuals from homosexual to heterosexual.

We oppose pseudo-scientific “reparative” and “conversion therapies”, so called, which have been developed and claim to change, alter, or diminish intensity of an individual’s sexual orientation. We find application of such strategies to minors potentially deleterious and deeply disturbing during such vulnerable periods of youth. Indeed, no one should be forced to change their sexual orientation against their will, including children who are coerced by their parents. We call on this State to support the self-determination of all individuals, and to protect the rights and welfare of persons or communities whose vulnerabilities impair autonomous decision-making.

California, New Jersey, Illinois, Oregon, and the District of Columbia have all recently banned conversion therapy on minors. Last year, in a landmark ruling against JONAH, a Jewish, gay-conversion therapy group, the New Jersey Superior Court decided that advertising “conversion therapy” services on the basis of a false description of homosexuality as

being abnormal or a mental disorder and promising to change the sexual orientation of their clients amounted to consumer fraud and unconscionable business practices. These misrepresentations were found to violate the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act.

Noting that there are no free speech or religious rights to engaging in consumer fraud, we additionally ask for any “conversion therapies” and all advertising that purports to alter one’s sexual orientation or gender identity to constitute and be classified as false advertising and fraud.

In view of the foregoing, we STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2615. End conversion therapy now. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Shaun Campbell and Joyce Charles,

Co-Organizers
Honolulu Council of MoveOn.org
Honolulu, Hawaii
MoveOnHonolulu@gmail.com



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

The Honorable Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 23, 2016

Re: SUPPORT for SB 2615, Testimony from the Human Rights Campaign in support of the bill to protect minors in Hawaii from the abusive practice of conversion therapy

Dear Chairperson Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), on behalf of its nearly 5,000 members in Hawaii, thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2615, a vital measure that will protect young people in Hawaii from dangerous and discredited practices that falsely claim to change one's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. We urge you to consider and swiftly pass this important legislation.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. As an advocate for LGBT young people, HRC believes that no young person should be coerced or subjected to dangerous practices that lack legitimate medical purpose, such as conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy, sometimes referred to as "sexual orientation change efforts," are practices, sometimes performed by licensed mental health providers, which seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. These practices are based on the false idea that being LGBT is a mental illness that needs to be cured, an idea which has been rejected by every major mental health group for decades. Conversion therapy does not include therapies that provide acceptance, support, or understanding of LGBT identities; that facilitate coping, social support, or identity exploration; or that address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices. This legislation enacts professional standards for state-licensed mental health providers to clarify that sexual orientation change efforts are not an acceptable or responsible professional practice when applied to young people under age 18.

There is no credible evidence that conversion therapy can change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, and it is abundantly clear that conversion therapy poses devastating health risks for LGBT young people. These dangerous practices can lead to depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and even suicidal behavior, and for this reason the nation's leading mental health organizations have roundly decried them.¹ Unfortunately, due to discrimination against LGBT people and the fact that professional rules have not kept up with this widespread understanding, some licensed mental health professionals continue to engage in conversion therapy.

Research shows that young people experience conversion therapy as a form of family rejection, and LGBT youth who experience family rejection face increased health risks. In one study, such youth were 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression, and 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs compared with peers who had not experienced such rejection.² On the other hand, family acceptance has been shown to be an important protective factor that can help to prevent suicide behavior and mental health issues. Providers who engage in conversion therapy under state license can mislead families about the risks involved, leading to negative psychological outcomes and irreparable damage to family cohesiveness. This legislation is needed to protect families from these damaging practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of this critical bill to protect LGBT youth.

Sincerely,



Sarah Warbelow
Legal Director
Human Rights Campaign

¹ For example, the American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Counseling Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy all have position statements criticizing conversion therapy.

² Caitlin Ryan, et al., *Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults*. PEDIATRICS 346 (2009).



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
Witness to Jesus



Submitted: Online
Hearing on: Friday, 02/26/16
Conference Room: 016

DATE: February 25, 2016
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director
Re: Opposition to SB 2615 SD1 Relating to Minors

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate JDL Committee, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in the State of Hawaii.

We oppose this bill because it bans reparative therapy for minors, even if the minor themselves or the parents want the therapy. That is awfully invasive on the part of the legislature, which has no competence in this area. The wording in SB 2615 SD1 offers no exemption for clergy, religious or spiritual counselors who are licensed by the state, which we find problematic and a violation of religious freedom.

To make it abundantly clear, the Catholic Church is concerned for the whole person. And in the mind of the Church, the psychological sciences, in accord with Christian anthropology, are not considered separate from pastoral care, but rather integral to it. The care and dignity of the human person is the core foundation for what we believe as Catholics.

In 1995, the Pontifical Council for the Family issued a document, "The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education in the Family." The document states that "[y]oung people need to be helped to distinguish between the concepts of what is normal and abnormal, between subjective guilt and objective disorder, avoiding what would arouse hostility." It also states that "if parents notice the appearance of this tendency or of related behavior in their children during childhood or adolescence, they should seek help from expert qualified persons in order to obtain all possible assistance."

This bill would keep patients from exercising their right to choose the therapy they feel best meets their needs. Their individual choice in therapy should be taken into consideration. Every patient should have the right to get the help they need and secure a counselor that supports their counseling goals.

Finally, we are opposed to this bill because we believe that if passed, it constitutes an infringement of parental rights. Please do not pass this disingenuous legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

(The public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii)

6301 Pali Highway, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-5224 Phone: (808) 203.6735 | www.catholicahawaii.org hcc@rcchawaii.org



February 23, 2016

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, February 26, 2016 – 12:30 p.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2615 SD 1**– RELATING TO MINORS

Aloha Chairperson Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2615 SD1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 2615 will prohibit teachers and persons who are licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on students and persons under eighteen years of age.

The LGBT Caucus respectfully requests the following technical amendments to SB 2615 SD1 to fix a typo. In the SD 1 version it reads in two locations “sexual advertising change efforts” when it should read “sexual orientation change efforts”. This typo appears in the following two locations: Page 3 Line 11 – 12 and Line 16.

This so called conversion therapy or as it is also known as in the counseling field “sexual orientation change effort”, is the false idea that one can change their sexual orientation through therapy/counseling. The facts are quiet clear that your sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression is part of your genetic make-up and no amount of coercive therapy/counseling can change them.

Here are the side effects from conversion therapy:

Depression, guilt, helplessness, **hopelessness**, shame, social withdrawal, **suicidality**, **substance abuse**, stress, disappointment, self-blame, **decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others**, hostility and blame toward parents, **increased self-hatred, feelings of anger and betrayal**, loss of friends and potential romantic partners, problems in sexual and emotional intimacy, sexual dysfunction, **high-risk sexual behaviors**, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, **a loss of faith**, and a sense of having wasted time and resources.

President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party of Hawai'i along with the American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American School Counselor Association, and the National Association of Social Workers have all come out against conversion therapy. California, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon and the District of Columbia have all passed laws banning this barbaric practice.

A New Jersey jury, under their state's law, went so far as finding the Jewish conversion therapy organization, JONAH, guilty of consumer fraud for promising to be able to change its client's

LGBT Caucus Testimony is Strong support of
Senate Bill 2615 SD 1 – Relating to Minors

sexual urges and determined its commercial practices to be unconscionable. The Supreme Court agreed with the jury's determination and upheld New Jersey's law.

The LGBT Caucus would also like to clear up some misconceptions that have come to light from the opposition to banning conversion therapy proposed by Senate Bill 2615 SD 1.

The inference that this bill interferes with parents' rights to raise their kids:

The State of Hawai'i has a lot of laws on the books that "interfere" with the way parents raise their kids from mandating seatbelts for all and booster seats for minors under 70 lbs; requiring life saving vaccinations; getting an education; requiring members of Christian Scientists to get their children life saving medical treatment; and outlawing child abuse. Every leading professional medical and mental health associations have rejected conversion therapy as unnecessary, ineffective, and dangerous. So to inflict conversion therapy on minors is child abuse.

That somehow this bill stop therapist from helping minors that are struggling with their sexual orientation; gender identity; and/or gender expression:

This bill does not bar anyone from seeking therapy with regards to their sexual orientation; gender identity; and/or gender expression, plain and simple. It does bar therapists from putting their patients in danger by exposing them the disavowed conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy is nothing but coercion, forcing the will of the parents for the minor to reject who they are and how they were born. That is not the role of a therapist, especially when dealing with minors. The false idea behind conversion therapy is that there can be a guaranteed set predetermined outcome from the therapy sessions – changing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

That this bill is unconstitutional on religious grounds and will have "unintended consequences":

The legal language found in this bill mirrors to what appears in the laws of California, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon and District of Columbia. Which has been challenged in court, all the way up to the Supreme Court in fact and the Supreme Court has rejected all challenges. It should be noted that NONE of those laws have religious exemptions and they have passed constitutional muster. This is because priests, pastors and other persons of the cloth, as long as they are doing their ministerial duties, have constitutional protection.

It is when those few priests, pastors and other persons of the cloth, that are licensed therapists, decide to hang a shingle and offer therapy that they would fall under the jurisdiction of this law. Much like those pastors that advocate for the death of President Obama from the pulpit, not one has been arrested. Even though it is against federal law to threaten the life of the President of the United States, they have constitutional protection.

As we pointed out earlier, New Jersey was able to sue JONAH a therapy group with religious ties because it was outside of their ministerial duties. The group with religious ties hung up a therapy shingle and said they could convert gays to straight, which they could not do. JONAH lost all the way to the Supreme Court.

<http://www.metroweekly.com/2015/05/supreme-court-allows-n-j-gay-conversion-therapy-ban-to-stand/>

LGBT Caucus Testimony is Strong support of
Senate Bill 2615 SD 1 – Relating to Minors

As for “unintended consequences”, this seems to be to go to phrase by the opposition to anything that would bring justice and equality to the LGBT community. They used that phrase constantly during the battle for marriage equality and to this day there has not been one “unintended consequence” by bringing marriage equality to the Aloha State.

That somehow this bill will bring out unlicensed therapists:

We already have laws on the books to handle unlicensed therapists. If the opposition is really concerned about unlicensed therapists then they should advocate for a stronger punishment be placed on the books.

There is a direct correlation between being LGBT and drug abuse:

This is false, there is no study that shows a correlation between being a member of the LGBT community and drug abuse. There is however a direct link between a member of the LGBT community going through conversion therapy and drug abuse, suicide and the complete list of other adverse side effects that we listed in our main testimony.

I will be more than happy to answer any questions that you or any member of your respective committees may have.

We ask that you support this very important bill as it will save lives as well as send a message loud and clear that discrimination encased in junk science has no place in the Aloha State.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

What Are Some Examples of Conversion Therapy?

In the past, some mental health professionals resorted to extreme measures such as institutionalization, castration, and electroconvulsive shock therapy to try to stop people from being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). Today, while some counselors still use physical treatments like aversive conditioning, the techniques most commonly used include a variety of behavioral, cognitive, psychoanalytic, and other practices that try to change or reduce same-sex attraction or alter a person's gender identity. While these contemporary versions of conversion therapy are less shocking and extreme than some of those more frequently used in the past, they are equally devoid of scientific validity and pose serious dangers to patients—especially to minors, who are often forced to undergo them by their parents or legal guardians, and who are at especially high risk of being harmed.

According to a 2009 report of the American Psychological Association, the techniques therapists have used to try to change sexual orientation and gender identity include inducing nausea, vomiting, or paralysis while showing the patient homoerotic images; providing electric shocks; having the individual snap an elastic band around the wrist when aroused by same-sex erotic images or thoughts; using shame to create aversion to same-sex attractions; orgasmic reconditioning; and satiation therapy. Other techniques include trying to make patients' behavior more stereotypically feminine or masculine, teaching heterosexual dating skills, using hypnosis to try to redirect desires and arousal, and other techniques—all based on the scientifically discredited premise that being LGBT is a defect or disorder.

The current practice guidelines for the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), which is a group of therapists who endorse and practice conversion therapy in the United States, encourage its members to consider techniques that include hypnosis, behavior and cognitive therapies, sex therapies, and psychotropic medication, among others.

<http://www.nclrights.org/bornperfect-the-facts-about-conversion-therapy/>



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

NATIONAL OFFICE
870 Market St Suite 370
San Francisco CA 94102
tel 415 392 6257
fax 415 392 8442
info@nclrights.org
www.nclrights.org

DATE: February 24, 2016
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
FROM: Samantha Ames, National Center for Lesbian Rights

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2615

My name is Samantha Ames, and I am a Staff Attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the coordinator of our #BornPerfect campaign to end conversion therapy. NCLR is a national nonprofit legal organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of LGBT people and their families. Our youth project was founded in 1993 specifically to address the mistreatment of LGBT youth in the mental health system. We have seen firsthand the devastating impact on parents and families when they are misled by state-licensed professionals who tell them that therapy can change their child's sexual orientation or gender identity.

In 2009, the American Psychological Association reviewed all the empirical and expert clinical data on decades of conversion therapy treatments and concluded that there is no scientific evidence that such efforts are effective, and significant evidence that they are harmful—especially for children, and linked to dramatically increased rates of depression, substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, isolation, and even suicide. The latest research confirms that these dangers are more pronounced than we even knew.

Because these practices have no scientific basis, provide no benefits, and carry such high risks, every one of the nation's leading medical and mental health associations have issued policy statements condemning them. Recently, a New Jersey court concluded that professional claims that being LGBT is a curable mental disorder are based in animus and constitute consumer fraud. Just months ago, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration published a report from the nation's foremost experts on LGBTQ youth mental health, describing these practices as ineffective and inappropriate and calling for their end. Last year, the Surgeon General, Vice President, and President all publicly condemned conversion therapy and came out in strong support of state bills just like SB 2615. Even the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Committee Against Torture have pressured the United States to address the recent resurgence in these practices.

After state mental health licensing boards began asking for more specific language around conversion therapy, I and the other constitutional lawyers at NCLR have helped defend laws just like SB 2615 before the Third and Ninth Federal Circuit Courts, both of which have concluded that these regulations are legally beyond dispute. This bill does not affect the free speech of doctors or the ability of minors to seek any type of medically sound therapeutic



treatment. Like every other neutral and generally applicable law that regulates licensed medical professionals, it will only ensure that providers cannot subject patients to ineffective and harmful practices—and cannot defraud loving parents who rely on the law to keep their kids safe.

Working closely with survivors of conversion therapy, I know all too well that this bill is a matter of life and death. There are those in our network who have lived through years of agony believing they were sick or sinful, others who were promised resolution of unmet childhood needs if they endured inhumane aversive conditioning or engaged in sexual acts with their provider, and others whose stories we'll never know. If conversion therapy were treated like any other medical treatment or drug, it would have been banned by the FDA years ago based on its mortality rate alone. The suicide of Leelah Alcorn has been a wake-up call to much of the country that we need to act now to protect our children from an industry that profits from their pain. But the call I got that day last December that we had lost another young person to conversion therapy wasn't the only one I got that week, and it won't be the last I get. SB 2615 would protect the most vulnerable among us from being told that who they are is wrong and protect families from the agony of discovering too late that they have been defrauded by a trusted professional.

We therefore strongly urge you to support SB 2615 and send a message to all children that they are safe to be who they are in the state they call home.



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71 Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: Rainbowfamily808@gmail.com Phone: 808-779-9078 Fax: 808672-6347

February 23, 2016

TO: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: SB2615 Ban Conversion Therapy

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Sen. Chair Keith Agaran and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee,

Today I address this austere body as a Master's Level Social Worker, wife, mother and Founding President of Rainbow Family 808 in Strong Support for SB2615. Over the years, I have held the hands of Survivors of Ice Baths and Shock Treatments but never even knew Conduct Satiation Therapy (CST) existed as one form of Conversion Therapy. While all of these are forms of Conversion Therapy, CST is not well known by the public. All these forms of Conversion Therapy are child abuse, plain and simple, and CST is also child sexual abuse. All forms of Conversion Therapy are dangerous and harmful for our keiki.

A recent testimony by a family friend touched me deeply because I know this family and love their wonderful son, Brad, the author of the Conduct Satiation testimony. Mike & I knew his parents through the roman catholic church's Marriage Encounter program. Now I know that during those years of working for the 'god doesn't make junk' message, was a waste of our time but more importantly a total betrayal of their son.

The fact that the main opponents of Banning Conversion Therapy are churches in our community is a betrayal to the children and families that follow the churches counseling recommendations. Child abuse and torture are crimes. These crimes have a lifetime impact on the children's lives. Well beyond their childhood they suffer from feelings of depression, loss of self worth and other disruptive feelings.

This knowledge is breaking my heart. I thought I had a handle on the forms of Conversion Therapy: Ice Baths and Shock Therapy. As a Masters degree Social

Worker, I never heard of Conduct Satiation Therapy. I have offered support to survivors of Ice Baths and Shock Therapy thinking that was the worst possible torture. This depravity of humans continues to surprise and disgust me as long as Conversion Therapy is allowed in our state.

Society needs to Ban Conversion Therapy because it is child abuse. Please Pass SB2615 on the grounds that humanity calls for it's ban for minors in due haste. Our children deserve freedom from torture.

SB2615 is a Humanitarian Measure that needs to become law immediately to help bring justice and humanity to the forefront for the sake of our youth.

Mahalo nui loa,¹

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

[This is the testimony that motivated me to continue my work for justice.](#)

February 9, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Hawaii State Legislature th Legislature,
2016 State of Hawai`i

Aloha Senator Michelle N. Kidani,

My name is Braddoc Anthony Kanani DeCaires. I am 44 years old and was born and raised here on O`ahu. I have worked at the non-profit organization Mental Health America of Hawai`i in the past as well as GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocate and Defenders) in Boston, MA. I am also a theatre actor here on the island and have been volunteering here at Hawai`i's theatres for almost 20 years and have either starred in or crewed over 40 shows in my career. I was even fortunate to star in an episode of "Hawaii 5-0" last year.

I am a gay man. I realized I was gay when I was 7, although I did not fully understand what that meant at that age.

Because of my past experience with conversion 'therapy' as a teenager, I'd like to share my disdain at the fact that this type of procedure still occurs today in 2016. When I was in high school, I came out to my parents and because of their religious views, they signed me up with a doctor (Dr. Jack S. Annon PhD) here in Hawai`i that specialized in conversion 'therapy' who had me conduct satiation therapy on myself. For those on your committee that are not familiar with the process The National Center for Biotechnology Information (which is part of the United States National Library of Medicine) describes it

IF MORE PEOPLE BELIEVED IN JUSTICE, THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE!

in the fall of 1979 as follows:

“The procedure involves the pairing of prolonged masturbation (1 hour) with the verbalization by the patient of his deviant sexual fantasies and in both cases the designs permitted the attribution of control over aberrant responding to the satiation therapy.”

It is as devastating as it sounds but to a teenager who was still trying to figure out himself it was ten times as humiliating and ultimately key to the major depression I suffered as a teenager which still continues today.

[Page 1 of 2]

I do not fault my parents for their course of action, to them it was a glimmering sign of hope that I would not be further subjected to bullying in school and by my extended family members. What is at fault is a system that still allows this to happen in 2016

when the American Medical Association has this to say about this sort of procedure:

"Our AMA... opposes, the use of 'reparative' or 'conversion' therapy that is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that the patient should change his/her homosexual orientation." H-160.991, Health Care Needs of the Homosexual Population.

Basically, what the AMA is saying is that it is unnecessary. As someone who was subjected to it, I would like to officially say that, to me, it was harmful, degrading and left lasting mental health issues for me to contend with that a score of psychologists and psychiatrists have attempted to help me with since I was a teenager until now.

Do not subject Hawai'i's keiki to this form of mental abuse any further. Please help me educate parents out there who think they are doing what is best for their children when, in fact, they are causing brutal, long-lasting harm to them.

I have shared with you my very public theatre and television persona at the beginning of this testimony. This subject is of such great importance to me that I am willing to divulge this dark chapter from my past publically in order to help children, teenagers out there from being subjected to this form of abuse. The fact that I was hesitant to discuss this in a public forum until now (30 years or so later) further illustrates the self-hate, self-doubt that I still battle today with what happened to me as a child.

I support SB 2615 and I hope you do, too. Mahalo for your time,

Braddoc DeCaire

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SB2615:

The systemic crimes within the Roman Catholic Church was first documented in Jason Berry's "Lead Us Not Into Temptation" from 1992; 2) Richard Sipe's "[Sex, Priests, and Secret Codes: The Catholic Church's 2,000 Year Paper Trail of Sexual Abuse](#)" 2006; 3) Boston Globe "Betrayal: The Crisis in the Catholic Church 2015 and 4) Joelle Casteix "The Well-Armored Child: the Parents Guide to Preventing Sexual Abuse" 2015; 5) Bishop-accountability.org (List of clergy accused of sexual abuse.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:20 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Burdt	Individual	Support	No

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

Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: SB 2615 SD1

Friday, 02-26-16

10:00AM in conference room 016

Position: **IN SUPPORT**

Chair and Vice Chair, I am a concerned citizen writing to testify **in support** of SB 2615. I am a concerned citizen, and educator, a n MSW student graduating this May, and a member of many minority communities, including the LGBTQ community. It concerns me that Hawai'i is the last state who has struggled to even enter a bill into legislation that ban this type of "therapy" with all of the evidence existing stating the probably harm incurred as a result.

I know, deep down, that you care deeply for your keiki and the generations to come. As a member of the LGBTQ community who did not have the option of living openly as a lesbian youth with the support of those around her, I know how devastating it can be to confide in those closest to you and hear them say they want to change you. I know how crippling it can be to one's mind, and how traumatic to one's spirit to be told that something is inherently wrong with you because of whom you love.

Youth in this community are **4 times more likely** to attempt suicide than their straight peers, and if these youth come from rejecting families or families who try to change them, that statistic balloons to **8.4 times more likely** (<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/pages/facts-about-suicide>); **40% of homeless** youth identify as LGBTQ (<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/americas-shame-40-of-homeless-youth-are-lgbt-kids/>). These statistics don't exist because of the identity of the children-they exist because of the rejection of them by the people they are supposed to be able to count on the most. **70% of these youth** identify family rejection as the reason they are in these predicaments.

Parents will still have the right to express how *they* feel. Enough parents will continue to express their disapproval of their LGBTQ child without continuing to allow licensed professionals and educators to use their positions of influence to bring more trauma to the lives of youth still in the midst of discovering who they are. I'm **in support** of SB 2615, and you should be too.

Causha Spellman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:30 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Gaulty	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this very important bill! It is the humane and intelligent thing to do! Mahalo.

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

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2615
Christopher Doyle, MA, LPC, LCPC
Co-Coordinator, National Task Force for Therapy Equality
February 24, 2016

My name is Christopher Doyle, and I am a former homosexual, a father of five, and a loving husband to a beautiful woman that I have been married to for nine years. I am also a licensed clinical professional counselor and a leader in the #TherapyEquality movement. This is my story of healing and journey in the last eleven years, as I have fought in my own life, and for others I work with, for the existence of those who have left homosexuality and have unwanted same-sex attractions.

In 2004, I had just graduated college and was a young professional, seeking to make a name for myself. I was also terribly confused about my sexuality and struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions (SSA). Deep down in my soul, however, I knew that I was not gay.

But it wasn't until I formed strong bonds with a group of men from my church that I realized I had been filling the missing pieces of my masculinity in gay sex. At the time, I was very attracted to men, and had no problem finding suitable guys to have casual sexual encounters, but this left me feeling empty. I really wanted to be close with my male friends at church, and the more we connected, the more my heart healed from the years of rejection with the popular, athletic guys in school.

Not long after that, I joined a twelve-step group for sexual abuse survivors and began seeing a counselor who helped me understand and heal the long-term affects of sexual abuse I suffered in childhood. During this time, I remember waking up one day and thinking: "My sexual desires for men are not the same as they used to be."

It was around this time that I also started dating a young woman. Eight months later, we married. Soon after, I entered graduate school and began studying counseling to help others, who like myself, were confused about their sexuality.

After my healing, it really bothered me to hear over and over: "Those who experience same-sex attractions are just born that way – they can't change." My experience defied that narrative. I later began to find many others that also rejected that claim for their lives, worked through unwanted homosexuality, and fulfilled their dreams for marriage and family.

I also had that dream, and today, it's a reality for me. My wife and I have five beautiful children, and I couldn't be happier! I also realized my goal of becoming a psychotherapist who specializes in working with men that are struggling with their sexuality. But that reality has not come without a price.

Over the past six years, I have worked with approximately 175-200 men and women and dozens of families struggling with homosexuality. While it has been fulfilling to help

these individuals and families, gay activists have increasingly attacked our community by attempting to pass legislation to prohibit licensed counselors from helping youth who are seeking healing.

Although our movement, #TherapyEquality, helped to defeat 15 bills in state legislatures across the country in 2014 and 2015, gay activists were able to convince a number of legislators in a handful of states to make “change therapy” illegal. Why? Because of fear. They are threatened by the fact that *not* everyone who experiences homosexual feelings desires to live a gay life.

While they promote equality for transgendered youth who seek to change their biological sex, they are adamantly opposed to those who seek to change their sexual orientation. Despite the fact that 100 years of psychological research published in peer-reviewed journals documents that some individuals can and do experience change from homosexual to heterosexual. But because of the politically incorrect nature of that reality, most people will never be aware of those scientific facts, because gay activists dismiss or downplay these statistics.

Gay activists also insist that anyone who experiences homosexual feelings are born gay, and therefore, counseling to help them is not only wrong, but also harmful. After all, if people are simply born homosexual, how could they change?

But let’s not lose sight of the facts: In 2008, the American Psychological Association asserted that people are not simply born gay. Therefore, taking the rights away from parents and families to make choices about their sexuality and mental health counseling *is* harmful.

Perhaps you support gay rights. Maybe your friend or family member is homosexual. Maybe you yourself are gay. If that’s you, you understand that sexuality is complex, and access to diverse mental health counseling to help people navigate through these complexities is important for everyone. Senate Bill 2615 is an affront to everyone’s rights, and at a time when we’re expanding equality for all, this legislation is a step in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,

Christopher Doyle, MA, LPC, LCPC
Co-Coordinator, #TherapyEquality

DEAN HAMER, PHD
SCIENTIST EMERITUS, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
TESTIMONY ON SB2615-SD1
February 23, 2016

My name is Dean Hamer, I'm from Haleiwa, and I'm speaking support of SB2615-SD1 because it is scientifically sound and medically prudent to protect the health and well-being of youth. I do so as Harvard Medical School-trained behavioral geneticist and scientist emeritus of the National Institutes of Health where I was the Chief of the Section on Gene Structure and Regulation for 35 years and published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and three books on this subject matter.

“Gay Conversion Therapy” has a long, sad history. People have tried lobotomy, castration, electroshock, nausea-inducing drugs, even testicular transplants. It's never worked. The reason is that sexual orientation is a deeply ingrained, largely innate trait.

Modern methods of talk therapy may be less dramatic, but they're no less cruel. Can you imagine being told by a doctor, or teacher, or even your own parents that you are sick and diseased just for being who you are? That make make a kid feel ashamed and guilty, helpless, depressed, even suicidal – but it won't turn them straight.

Please note that this bill does NOT have anything to do with what parents tell their kids or preachers tell their flock. This bill regulates state-licensed counseling professionals, and that's it.

The bill also doesn't stop counsellors from talking to patients about how to deal with whatever difficulties they might have because of their sexuality. In fact, it allows a counselor to suggest sexual abstinence, which is one solution.

I am struck by the fact that of all the testimony for these hearings, not one psychologist or counsellor who claims to be able to change sexual orientation has stepped forward. Why? Probably because it doesn't work.

It is concerning that Duke Aiona has issued an action alert from Hawaii Family Advocates claiming that research from Rich Savin-Williams, a prominent psychologist, supports the idea of conversion therapy. I wrote Savin-Williams, and he replied

“Baffles me how my research is twisted. I strongly condemn conversion therapy as as one of the most severe detriments to young gay lives. Sexual orientation is generally considered to be immutable, stable over time, and resistant to conscious control. However much one might **want** it to be otherwise, neither prayer nor reparative therapy nor bad research can change sexual orientation. “

The bill is not a violation of free speech or freedom of religion. This issue has already been brought all the way to the Supreme Court twice, for legislation identical to the Hawaii Bill, and the Supreme Court said: let the law stand.

Lastly, please not that this bill is very much in accord with Kanaka Maoli culture and values. The concepts of aikane and mahu are well know in Hawaiian history. Trying to “convert” people from same-sex attraction is an affront to the true spirit of aloha: love, honor and respect for **all**.

I hope you will vote Aye on this measure, and help prevent Hawaii's youth from being exposed to dangerous and unnecessary forms of psychological manipulation.

Hello,

I support this Bill, and speak from the perspective of a person who has gay family members. I believe conversion therapy is dangerous. My brother thought he could change himself when he was a teenager. He suffered negative impacts to his mental and physical health. I believe sexual orientation is something you are born with and not something that you can change, just as a heterosexual cannot be taught to be gay.

Thank you,

Debbie Blanton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:53 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Albertazzi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose passage of this bill

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:53 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha supporters of equality! I strongly support the passage of SB2615. Please stand by your convictions for equality and pass this bill. Thank you for your time and support. Eileen McKee Kihei

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

February 24, 2016

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2615 SD1 Relating to Minors (Ban on Conversion Therapy for LGBT Youth)

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in **strong support of SB 2615 and the companion HB1675** for banning conversion therapy in Hawai'i.

In Hawai'i, the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people have been recognized with the passage of non-discrimination bills for employment and public accommodations, as well as the recent passage of the marriage equality bill in 2013. The American Psychological Association has removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses and considers heterosexuality and homosexuality as normal expressions of sexuality. The American Psychiatric Association, in a statement from 2000, states that conversion or "reparative" therapy to change one's sexual orientation can cause further psychological harm to youth, leading to depression, self-destructive behavior since a therapists alignment with the societal prejudices against homosexuality would reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient.

I am a gay Catholic man in a committed relationship for over 25 years. I am president of Dignity Honolulu, the local chapter of Dignity USA, which is the national organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics. I am glad that my family and friends support me and that I was not subjected to conversion or reparative therapy. Organizations such as Exodus and other "ex-gay" ministries have not been successful in changing the sexual orientation of the people participating in their programs, and have actually caused more psychological harm instead. Hawai'i should follow the lead of 5 other U.S. states, and support the ban of this type of "therapy".

Again, I urge you to support SB 2615 banning conversion therapy for LGBT youth in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Gene Corpuz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:02 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaclyn Stanford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the passage of this bill.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:25 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Hairgrove	Individual	Support	No

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

Dear Members of the Hawaii Senate,

23 Feb 2016

Aloha and thank you for your service to the state and people of Hawaii. I want to applaud you for your efforts to protect young people who are confused about their gender/identity from barbaric practices such as electric shock therapy to change their orientation. This is not right and I hope it is not practiced anymore.

However I must oppose SB 2165 on the grounds that it is simply unfair to minors who are uncertain about their gender. If they have questions, they deserve answers. Many seek direction from pastors and counselors who practice their given faith. It is wrong to deny these young people the right to seek help from counselors who view gender issues in a manner which is consistent with the teens' faith. The bill in question creates a double standard.

The bill states that minors who desire to change to another gender may be counseled to do so but prevents the same child from receiving counseling in the case that they wish to remain their biological gender. It is simply biased toward individuals who wish to reassign gender and alienates those who don't. We should not become an inclusive society at the expense of others; all should have free access to counselors and outcomes of their choice.

Let me be clear: It is wrong to treat people who identify as transgender in discriminatory ways—refusing to hire them, talking unkindly to them; making fun of them... these things are not acceptable, even in the name of religion if one would do so. But refusing to help people or in the case of a minor, which this bill specifically addresses, to allow their parents to seek therapy that is consistent with their right to the practice of free religion, is unconstitutional. Parents are responsible for their children until they turn 18. They have the right to seek the best interest of their child and the government is overstepping its boundaries to say they know better and deny children any legitimate options.

I do not believe it is the duty of government to decide for us which religious beliefs are acceptable and which are not. The U.S. Constitution specifically prevents government from infringing on the free exercise of religion. While I wholeheartedly agree that conversion therapy practices should not be cruel in any fashion, I do not think compassionately counseling the teen in line with a person's faith violates the child's rights. Therefore, I strongly **oppose** SB 2615. Until SB2615 creates strong protections for clergy that protect both them and their faith, you will not have my support.

Mahalo for your time and kind attention,

Jennifer Swearingen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 4:18 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM*

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:45 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo-Ann M Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This "therapy" has been shown to be harmful and has been banned in other states.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:44 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I write in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2615 SD1 and the proposal “to prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on students and persons under eighteen years of age. Makes advertising the offering of sexual orientation change efforts an unfair or deceptive act or practice. (SD1)” Since the bill itself outlines the critical health risks associated with such practices, I won’t dwell for long on the facts of which you are already aware, e.g. that: - So-called “conversion therapy” is a range of dangerous and discredited practices that falsely claim to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, - Such practices have been rejected by every mainstream American medical and mental health organization for decades, - Due to continuing societal bias and discrimination against LGBT people, minors are especially vulnerable to the harms of this so-called “conversion therapy,” and often suffer increased levels of depression, anxiety, drug use, family rejection, homelessness, and suicide as a result. (American Psychological Association and San Francisco State University) No society should allow children to be the targets of such abuse, particularly at the hands of licensed practitioners. The legislature should also be aware of, and counter, the malicious misinformation being circulated by Hawaii Family Advocates in opposition to this bill. In an Action Alert HFA issued to prompt testimony from its followers on the House version (HB1675), it misrepresented the work of a prominent research scientist to support its claims that: “Research suggests that sexual orientation, especially in adolescence, is fluid and subject to change.” When pointed out to the source, Cornell University Professor Ritch Savin-Williams, he responded: “It baffles me how my research is twisted. I strongly condemn conversion therapy in many of my writings as one of the most severe detriments to young gay lives.” Additionally, while the proposed legislation is important, it is only a small piece of the broader work that must be done to make our schools, and communities, safe, inclusive, and respectful for all. As co-producer/director of a PBS film titled “Kumu Hina” and an associated educational program called “A Place in the Middle,” I’ve had the privilege of working with leaders in the Hawaiian community who are doing just that – using a culturally-centered approach to bridge and heal the divides on these issues that have been harming families and communities for far too long. As we continue in these efforts, it will also be important to ensure that the Department of Education be more proactive and accountable in its mission to develop the academic achievement, character and social-emotional well-being of ALL of our students, to their fullest potential. Too often, it seems that the DOE, and other public agencies, are intimidated into inaction by bullies like Rep. Bob McDermott, Duke Aiona, Hawaii Family Advocates, church leaders, and others who misuse their positions of authority to inflict warped and dangerous views about gender and sexuality on youth and the public. Enough is enough. It’s time for

all of us to do more, Joe Wilson Haleiwa, HI 96712 Senate District 23

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 12:12 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph O'Brien	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Senators: Please support the bill to ban sexual conversion therapy. There are many thousands of people who have been deceived into thinking that this type of therapy actually can change a gay person, making him straight. Decades of experience, by medical and psychiatric professionals have discovered and testified that such "therapy" is fraudulent. The overwhelming majority of patients who have undergone such therapy, including myself, have found that this is basically a waste of time. The record of success with such therapy is sorely lacking. Generally, those few who claim to be changed are found a few months or years later to actually be unchanged. A tremendous amount of money has been wasted on this useless therapy. No minor should have this fraud inflicted on him against his will. Evidence exists that it can actually harm young folks who go through it. Please end their suffering by passing this bill Thank you, Joseph O'Brien Honolulu Hawaii 96817

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

Joshua Kay

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2615

This legislation banning "conversion therapy" is needed in order to protect Hawaii's youth from this reprehensible and discredited practice, which does more harm than good. A person's sexual orientation is not a choice. This practice, which claims to be able to change a person's sexual orientation, is a farce. At most, all this practice does is to teach a person to live their life as a lie, which causes low self-esteem and a host of other problems.

You can't pray the gay away!

Sincerely,
Joshua Kay

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:11 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Penland	Individual	Support	No

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:45 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Righter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is so much pressure already on children and teenagers to conform to a heterosexual identity. So much already working against them if they were born in any other fashion, and so many people ready to try to change them, convert them to be something other than who they are. They do not need this, too. Sexual identity is NOT a disease to be treated. The disease is a culture that condemns love, that teaches children that something that is part of who they are, part of how they were born, is somehow wrong. Sexual conversion therapy, and the culture that supports it as a concept, creates nothing but harm in the psyche of those that are forced to undergo it. Harm that festers into other disorders, such as depression, leading to self-harm, self-medication with drugs, and ultimately, suicide. No one in a position of power or control over a child should be allowed to preach such a dangerous message, should be allowed to so thoroughly teach a lesson that leads to such self-hate. Protect our children, and pass this bill!

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

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Kimberly King, BSW

Honolulu, HI 96817

Friday, February 26, 2016

Testimony in Support for SB2615 SD1 , Relating to Minors

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB2615 SD1, which would ensure that our youth are protected from the damaging effects of conversion therapy.

In 1973 homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and in 2013 gender identity disorder was removed as well. The DSM is the only manual used by licensed clinicians to diagnose individuals with a mental disorder. Seeing how homosexuality and gender identity disorder have been removed from the DSM and is not seen as a mental disorder, there should be no such type of conversion or reparative therapy to treat a non-existing disorder. The data shows that these types of therapies in fact cause more harm to the individual and are proven ineffective.

In addition, below are a number of professional associations that believe any type of reparative or conversion type therapy should not be practiced. They also find evidence of damage, such as depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior as a result of conversion therapy.

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Counseling Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American School Counselor Association
National Association of Social Workers

The amount of professional associations that are in support of ending any and all types of conversion therapies continue to grow, as does the mounting evidence that proves conversion or reparative therapy does more harm to a person. For the health and well-being of our youth I strongly urge the committee to pass SB2615. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 4:23 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirk Surry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill banning "conversion therapy" outreach and advertising to minors under 18. This dangerous practice imposes religion based hatred and has been shown to be a direct cause of increase in suicide rates among LGBT youth. Please read more about this horrific practice on the Human Rights Campaign site - <http://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:42 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Koba-Burd	Individual	Support	No

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

Dear Senators,

"In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act." - George Orwell

I am in strong opposition to SB2615. I find this to be an audacious attempt to limit freedom of speech for all licensed therapists, especially for clergy.

Today we live in a world that is turned upside down. "Telling the truth," as George Orwell says, has sadly become a revolutionary act. The truth is, the human bodies are not meant to go together this way. This is common sense. It brings in disease and physical and emotional harm to those who engage in this behavior - even if "monogamous".

It is very dangerous to not at least let minors KNOW that all sexual behavior - whether homosexual or heterosexual; whether "protected" or unprotected - is very, very risky. We warn people here that swimming in jellyfish-infested waters is dangerous. Why on earth would we not allow teachers, licensed therapists and clergy to at least warn minors about this MUCH riskier behavior?? There seems to be no problem with being allowed to do this if the behavior is heterosexual.

We have an obligation to teach minors that in life, there are consequences to harmful, risky behavior, whether it's the use of drugs and alcohol, crime, not wearing a seatbelt, etc. This, of course, includes the fact that there are consequences to risky sexual behavior in ALL its forms.

We have an obligation to inform minors that everything in life that they want is not beneficial or to be "affirmed," as this bill says!

It is also very dangerous to attempt to tell therapists and clergy what they MUST say. There is no "therapy" in that, just telling minors that everything they want is okay. You are not attempting to only control what is said -- this is an attempt to legislate what people can BELIEVE. This, of course, will not happen, as laws cannot legislate beliefs.

I beg of you, do not pass this bill. You will be introducing chaos into these islands. MANY will refuse to be intimidated, silenced and forced into "speaking the party line." You will be responsible for this. You will be responsible for bringing even greater confusion and deception into the minds and hearts of Hawaii's future, its minors.

Thank you for reading this.

Dear Senators;

I am so distressed about the substance of SB 2615 SD1 and implore you to oppose this devastating bill.

While I am sure the intent of the senators who introduced the bill and passed it is well meaning, the effects will be detrimental to families which is the basis of healthy children. This bill undermines parental influence and aid to their children, as well as silences and restricts many professional counselors who believe they can help adolescents through these very challenging long-term, life decisions.

The bill states, "The legislature finds that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming." This is a broad sweeping statement, and I would argue that not all legislators believe this nor a majority of their constituents.

It continues, "Major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States have recognized this fact for nearly forty years." It may be true that over the years the American Psychological Association (APA) has changed its definitions on mental disorders, but it is not an empirical science, and many professional counselors do not agree with its stance. In fact there is much to question about the APA's definitions of mental disorders. Take for example their stance on pedophilia included in their Paraphilic Disorders Fact Sheet:

Through careful consideration of the research as well as of the collective clinical knowledge of experts in the field, several important changes were made to the criteria of paraphilic disorders, or paraphilias as they have been called in previous editions of the manual.

Characteristics of Paraphilic Disorders

Most people with atypical sexual interests do not have a mental disorder. To be diagnosed with a paraphilic disorder, DSM-5 requires that people with these interests:

- ***feel personal distress about their interest***, not merely distress resulting from society's disapproval;
- or
- *have a sexual desire or behavior that involves another person's psychological distress, injury, or death, or a desire for sexual behaviors involving unwilling persons or persons unable to give legal consent.*

<http://www.dsm5.org/Documents/Paraphilic%20Disorders%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Isn't the worst kind of pedophile one who doesn't feel distress over their sexual interest in children? And yet they are saying it is not a disorder unless they feel personal distress over it. I would say that the attraction is unnatural and a disorder no matter what they feel.

Sadly, our senators, in their efforts to protect our children, may in fact be doing them great harm. Take for instance Walt Heyer's life story:

“Living in a self-made gender fantasy world void of reality is not psychologically or emotionally healthy. I know that to be true. I was transgender kid at the age of 4. For decades, as I tried to live in my male birth gender, the feelings of being a woman only grew stronger.

I sought help from a renowned gender specialist who told me that mine was a clear-cut case of [gender dysphoria](#)—strong, persistent feelings of identification with the opposite gender and discomfort with one's own assigned sex. He said the only way to get relief was to surgically change genders. [I underwent gender reassignment surgery](#) at 42 years of age after cross-dressing for most of my life.

I lived as a transgender, [Laura Jensen, female, for eight years](#). While studying psychology in a university program, I discovered that trans kids most often are suffering from a variety of disorders, starting with depression—the result of personal loss, broken families, sexual abuse, and unstable homes. Deep depression leads kids to want to be someone other than who they are.

That information sure resonated with me. Finally, I had discovered the madness of the transgender life. It is [a fabrication born of mental disorders](#).

I only wish that when I went to the gender counselor for help he would have told me I couldn't really change genders, that it is biologically impossible. Instead, he approved me for gender reassignment surgery, a surgery that, if I had been provided proper psychotherapy, would never have been necessary or appropriate.

The transgender life is often the direct result of early childhood difficulty or trauma. Assisting a young child into the fabricated ideology of a transgender life is not helping the child sort out what is real and what is fiction.

The likelihood that the child ... suffering from separation anxiety or some other psychological disorder cannot be ignored. Separation anxiety disorder and other psychological disorders can masquerade as gender dysphoria, leading caregivers and medical practitioners to misdiagnose and not provide proper or effective psychotherapies.

Thankfully, like me, many transgender persons return to the gender they once shed. Slowly they restore the life that was lost.” <http://dailysignal.com/2016/02/16/i-used-to-be-transgender-heres-my-take-on-kids-who-think-they-are-transgender>

Sadly, Walt Heyer lost a lifetime because of wrong psychological diagnosis, therapy and surgery. How many of our keiki will lose a lifetime because counselors will be prohibited from making correct diagnosis and therapies due to SB 2615 SD1?

Please oppose SB 2615 SD1. Vote no.

Mahalo, Lisa Poulos

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:11 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha JDL committee members, Thank you for your service to our beloved Hawaii. I'm writing in opposition to SB2615 as it compromises my freedom to share my position to people who desire help. I feel we should give all who are in need every tool/skill/information to make the right decision for themselves. therefore, I oppose curtailing/controlling information to an individual in need. please vote NO on SB2615. sincerely, Lois Young

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

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Members

FROM: Marti Tom

RE: SB2615, SD1 Relating to Minors (Conversion Therapy)

HEARING: 2/26/16; Room 016, 10am

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

This legislation clearly violates our fundamental rights to freedom of speech, as well as freedom of religion. It specifically targets therapists and licensed professionals, the latter which includes pastors. This broad inclusion mandates that men and women of faith forgo their beliefs to satisfy an increasingly intrusive government. And isn't what is said between a pastor and his/her congregant private?

Furthermore, this bill intrudes on the privacy and rights of families to make decisions regarding the health and welfare of minor children with their therapists and pastors. The bill seems to be motivated by anecdotal evidence that this type of therapy harms everyone. But, it would harm those minors who do seek this therapy. It seeks to cover all people with an erroneous assumption that no one would benefit from this therapy and that people cannot change. We all know that adolescence is a tumultuous time where attitudes and feelings are constantly changing and the brain is not yet fully developed. Why not give a child a choice?

Passage of this bill could lead to families having their child (children) taken away by the state if families do not obey this law.

Also banning a specific treatment could lead to future legislation regarding other types of treatment. What a slippery slope this is.

I urge you not to pass this bill out of your committee. Thank you for your consideration this my testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB2615. Our children should not be subjected to this type of unprofessional therapy for minors.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:57 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitchel Kagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB2615!

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:20 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nedi McKnight	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou, I would like to voice my support of SB2615. A minor should never be subjected to attempted psychological, psychiatric or spiritual "therapy", manipulation or attempts by any adult to change the minor's perceived sexual orientation. Respectfully, Nedi McKnight Pa'auilo, HI

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:02 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PJ Long III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I testify in OPPOSITION to this bill simply because it is Government over-reach into the actions and decisions made within the framework of a family. Once again, the State wishes to insert itself into the private matters of its citizens with a vaguely written and ambiguous law that outlaws all other opinions but it's own. It supposes that it knows better than a parent what is best for a child and seeks to erode the bonds within that family. Rather than encouraging and allowing for a larger number of positive outcomes, the State seeks to outlaw, oppose & condemn any form of treatment that doesn't fall all over its self to to PROMOTE the LGBT lifestyle. At its core, this bill advocates for this lifestyle and states that any child with legitimate questions can only be told one set of answers. It is an assault on parental rights and personal beliefs. I therefore encourage all members to stop this measure.

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

Judiciary and Labor Committee
Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Committee members: Sam Slom ,Donna Mercado Kim,
Mike Gabbard, Kaiali'i Kahele, Laura Thielen

S.B.2615 S.D.1

Conversion Therapy; Sexual Orientation; Minors

Hearing Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

I stand Strongly Opposed

This appears to be another move to circumvent parental rights when it comes to their minor children, those under the age of 18. You may have forgotten that you were elected by these very people to represent them not to dictate to them.

We are talking about minors who may be confused about a possible attraction to someone of the same sex. In this day an age of the propaganda manifested by a number of things, to include but not limited to: music flooding our airways, TV shows, movies, pop artist and the ongoing attempted indoctrination through our school systems, through programs like Pono Choices, Common Core, Comprehensive Sex Education. This may be further compounded by peer pressure, curiosity and possible sex abuse by a stranger or even sadly a trusted adult.

So where they born that way? You assume they were, however to make a blanket diagnosis much less implement a blanket treatment is irresponsible to say the least. They are each individuals human beings and yet you would treat them like cattle.

For each study you obtain that supports your agenda there are just as many if not more experts and cases that would prove those wrong. The law you are promoting would prohibit having a thorough evaluation by a licensed professional of each individual child. I have to wonder what is it you are afraid might be found.

Homosexuals have long maintained that it is not a life style choice, but are born that way genetically; with a gene no one has yet been able to find.

→ Case in point Sy Rogers: *And having been molested and having been exploited, having experimented, I wound up there and lived everything from the promiscuous gay lifestyle*

<https://konzervative.wordpress.com/2012/08/25/the-manwoman-story-of-sy-rogers/>

→ Then there is the PFOX Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays, an organization even Pres. Obama refuses to meet with, because they prove the fallacy that you are born and that way and can't change:

<http://www.pfox.org/>

→ Adolescent Sexual Orientation: Surprising amounts of change

October 2009, Whitehead Associates, Lower Hutt, New Zealand 5010

<http://mygenes.co.nz/change.htm>

→ 50 years of sex changes, mental disorders, and too many suicides by Walt Heyer

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/50-years-of-sex-changes-mental-disorders-and-too-many-suicides>

I strongly oppose this bill and ask you rethink this, then urge you to put it to rest once and for all.

Respectfully submitted Rita Kama-Kimura Mililani, HI 96789

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:21 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronette Byers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill because the wording is too broad and vague. It dictates counseling strategy of no conversion counseling for homosexually oriented clients.... but....opens the door for counselor bias to use conversion therapy for heterosexual clients.

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

SANDRA JOY EASTLACK MSCP. NCC. LMHC

DATE: February 26, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, The Honorable Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Sandra Joy Eastlack MSCP. NCC, LMHC

RE: SB2615, SD1 Relating to Minors

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of SB2615, SD1

I would like to acknowledge the Hawaii legislature being willing to look at this important issue and be on the forefront of actual legislation to ban conversion therapy. Currently four states, California, Illinois, New Jersey and Oregon as well as the District of Columbia have passed legislation not to allow this practice. As of August 15, 2015, 21 other states have introduced legislation banning the practice of conversion therapy for minors. In 2015, Congress introduced two bills and one resolution in the House and one resolution in the Senate that include the banning of conversion therapy or require non-discrimination in the provision of services to sexual and gender minority minors. Additionally, the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario in Canada also have banned conversion therapy.

Section 1 of SB2615, SD1 explains the concerns well and I would like to add that this is not a new concern. For almost half a century mental health professionals have been aware that homosexuality is not a mental disorder. In 1973 the American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM). It takes a number of years to make changes to any DSM version so this process began well before changes were made. The Pan American Health Organization has noted that the global scientific and professional consensus is that homosexuality is a normal and natural variation of human sexuality.

Over twenty years ago in 1993 the American Academy of Pediatrics published an article in its journal, Pediatrics, stating "Therapy directed at specifically changing sexual orientation is contraindicated, since it can provoke guilt and anxiety while having no or little potential for achieving changes in orientation."

Since then, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association on Scientific Affairs, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Pan American Health Organization and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) have all issued statements rejecting conversion therapy. These rejections contain issues such as there has been no documented evidence that attempts at conversion therapy has been successful and are rather than helpful to the individual are harmful, abusive and fraudulent. Most of these professional organizations

have professional guidelines on affirmative practices when working individuals that relate to sexual orientation issues.

With all the major health organizations and the years of study and research into the needs of this population that has been done I have to believe that these experts know what they are talking about. I am hopeful that this will be taken into consideration and Hawaii will do the right thing to protect these children.

I encourage you to pass SB2615, SD1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:27 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Editor, LGBT Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB2615. I'm 72 and have been openly Gay since 1965. In my life I've seen friends subjected to shock therapy, water torture and this so called immoral "conversion therapy" that must be finally banned. The misguided religious zealots who continue to try and protect this horrible process must finally be revealed for that they are -- Right Wing religious zealots who hate LGBT people.

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



“Strategic Change”

Scott K. Shimabukuro, Ph.D. ABPP, LLC

Clinical Psychologist PSY#845
Board Certification Couples & Family Psychology #5977

February 24, 2016

To the Senate Committee on JDL,

As both a public and independently practicing clinical psychologist I am in favor of this bill.

1. First of all, conversion and reparative therapy is ineffective. Those endorsing change have often been found to have experienced being coerced into that answer or even answering in order for the “treatment” to stop.
2. More than ineffective, it has been found harmful increasing anxiety, depression and a sense of stigma.
3. Every reputable medical and healthcare organization is against such a procedure including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics to name a few. The American College of Pediatrics is an organization that is often cited in favor of such methods which is a small ad hoc group with a political agenda, not a disseminator of science.
4. Contrary to some, this bill does not prevent a conversation about sexual orientation between a client and a therapist. This is either misinformation or outright deception.

Please support the bill excluding the use of such harmful methods.

Sincerely,

Scott K. Shimabukuro, PH.D. ABPP

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:20 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for JDL on Feb 26, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this important legislation to protect people from a torturous treatment that has no medical benefit. Mahalo!

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

Testimony for SB 2615:

Almost any gay man over age fifty has had this happen to him in some form. Either he was offered or has considered trying to be “non gay” via some sort of therapy. This usually was when he was a teen or young adult. Soon however, he realized that this negation of who he was did not square with his civil rights. And it certainly did not mirror any true spiritual path that honors the exuberant and varied creation coming from deity.

So- called conversion therapy (CT) has been demonstrated to do some harm at the very least. And at its worst has destroyed any hope for a healthy sexual and intellectual life. This results in a wasted life and in some cases suicide.

This CT should be outlawed since it is a vestige of an old paradigm which perpetuated religious legalism and placated erroneous cultural norms held by parents and religious gate keepers who needed scapegoats.

Yours truly,

Timothy D. Earhart,
Author and minister