

SB270

Measure Title: RELATING TO MINORS.

Report Title: Conversion Therapy; Sexual Orientation; Minors

Description: Prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

Companion: [HB1266](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): S. CHANG, BAKER, K. RHOADS



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DOUG CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

SENATE BILL NO. SB 270
Relating to the Minors

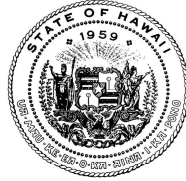
Aloha Chair Baker and Vice Chair Tokuda,

I am writing today to offer my strong support for Senate Bill 270 based upon my firm belief that no child in Hawai'i should ever be made to feel there is something "wrong" with them based on who they love or how they identify.

Hawai'i is a thriving melting pot built on a foundation of inclusiveness and respect. We believe every person is valuable and special. And we know that our strength comes from our diverse citizens coming together as one.

This Committee has the opportunity to continue the Hawai'i's legislature's work to break down barriers to equal rights for the LGBTQ community. Protecting our LGBTQ youth from damaging and discredited efforts to change their sexual orientation or gender identity is a critical next step. A vote for this measure is a vote for a future where every person is empowered to live and love as they wish.

It is time for Hawai'i to join a growing coalition of states and municipalities – including California, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Vermont – to ban licensed mental health professionals from subjecting minors to "conversion therapy". I strongly support Senate Bill 270 and I respectfully ask for your vote to enact this important measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB270
RELATING TO MINORS

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 20, 2018

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health
3 Division supports SB270 to protect the physical and psychological wellbeing of minors against
4 exposure to harm caused by Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE; also known as
5 “Conversion Therapy”). According to the American Psychological Association (APA), there is
6 insufficient research evidence to demonstrate the efficacy of SOCE. There is also no evidence
7 that providing SOCE therapies to children or adolescents has an impact on Adult sexual
8 orientation.

9 The APA found SOCE therapies tend to do more harm than good. Not only do children and
10 adolescents get misinformation, they also are at risk of increased self-stigma and psychological
11 distress. Children and adolescents who participate in these types of therapies are given
12 inaccurate scientific information regarding sexual orientation. These types of therapies also
13 often use fear based techniques and have the potential to increase stigma. Participants also often
14 report an increase in distress and depression especially when such “therapies” do not work.
15 SOCE participants report negative consequences of SOCE therapies such as, anger, anxiety,
16 depression, guilt, hopelessness, loss of social support, relationship problems with significant
17 others and families, social isolation, suicidal thoughts, self-hatred, and sexual dysfunction. As
18 such, these types of coercive therapies are contrary to current clinical and professional standards.
19 These types of therapies violate current clinical practice by not protecting the client’s autonomy

1 and by ignoring scientific information on sexual orientation. Although some opponents of this
2 bill have tried to suggest that there is disagreement among researchers about the evidence in this
3 area, they have referenced publications by anti-gay organizations only. All the major
4 organizations of professionals involved in treating children have issued statements opposing
5 Sexual Orientation Change therapy, including the American Psychological Association, the
6 American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric
7 Association, and the National Association of Social Workers.

8 The bill does not hinder mental health providers, clergy or parents from counseling youth or
9 offering a range of other, more standard clinical psychological services to lesbian, gay, bisexual,
10 and transgender (LGBT) children and adolescents. The bill regulates the services being provided
11 to LGBT children and adolescents to provide them protections against being exposed to harm
12 through SOCE therapies that might be chosen for them by adults. The bill is in line with APA
13 practice standards and the Department of Health standard of providing evidence based services.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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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 COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

**TWENTY-NINTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2018**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018
9:00 am**

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 270, RELATING TO MINORS.

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.B. 270, 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 takes no position on the bill, but offers the following comments and requests clarification.

S.B. 270 creates a new chapter in Title 25 that prohibits licensed persons who provide professional counseling, including but not limited to physicians specializing in the practice of psychiatry, physician assistant, psychologist, social worker, mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, or a person who performs counseling as part of the person’s professional training for any of these professions, from engaging in or sexual orientation change efforts involving persons under eighteen years of age.

The bill also prohibits licensed persons who provide professional counseling from offering sexual orientation change efforts in advertisements.

RICO requests clarification on what constitutes “professional counseling” at page 2, lines 4-10, and page 2 lines 16-17, and recommends that all license types to be included under this definition be specifically identified.

Also, RICO notes that the phrase “efforts to change behaviors” at page 3, line 4 is vague and may be broadly construed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 270. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 5:03:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
9:00 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 270 RELATING TO MINORS

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; the Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Health:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No.270 relating to Conversion Therapy; Sexual Orientation and Minors.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No 270 and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No.2306 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for the purpose of forcing sexual orientation, and gender identity and gender expression conversions, such as conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors and adults at the State and Federal level. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.(Platform of the DPH, PP. 7-8, Lines 389-392 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No.270 prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

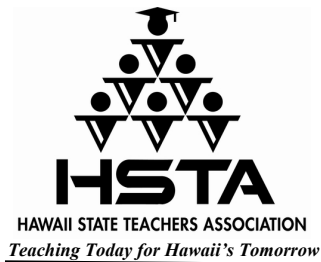
Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/**Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

RE: SB 270 - RELATING TO MINORS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 270**, relating to minors.

Conversion therapy, often called “ex-gay” therapy, has no place in our society. It involves a rejection of a child's sexual or gender identity. Minors who experience rejection based on their sexual orientation face serious health risks. In a study published in the medical journal *Pediatrics*, lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults who reported higher levels of rejection during adolescence were 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression, 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs, and 3.4 times more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse compared with their peers.

Numerous medical, psychological, and mental health organizations have condemned conversion therapy as unscientific and developmentally dangerous, including the American Psychological Association. In the education world, HSTA helped pass a 2015 National Education Association Convention Item opposing conversion therapy, NBI 86, that states, “NEA will disseminate to educators through existing publications current information regarding the damaging effects of anti-gay conversion/reparative therapies.” Thus, teachers, too, understand the harm caused by conversion therapy, which undermines childhood development. We believe this practice is tantamount to child abuse and should be banned statewide.

To protect our keiki from discriminatory pseudo-psychology, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

Date: February 20, 2018

To: The Honorable Rozalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: NASW Hawai'i Chapter

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 270 Relating to Minors

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The National Association of Social Workers- Hawaii (NASW-Hawai'i) strongly supports SB 270 which prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age

Conversion therapy has been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades, including NASW, but due to continuing discrimination and societal bias against LGBTQ people, some practitioners continue to conduct conversion therapy. Minors are especially vulnerable, and conversion therapy can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide.

Many states, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia have enacted laws or regulations to protect minors from being subjected to conversion therapy by state-licensed mental health providers.

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LSW
Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

*American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam & American
Samoa) Section*

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 9:00am
PLACE: Conference Room 229

FROM: Hawaii Section, ACOG
Dr. Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Chrystie Fujimoto, MD, FACOG, Vice-Chair
Dr. Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Legislative Chair
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 270 – Relating to Minors
Position: STRONG SUPPORT

The Hawaii Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) strongly supports SB 270, which would prohibit licensed professional counselors from engaging in or advertising sexual orientation change efforts to minors. As a Section of the Nation's leading group of physicians dedicated to improving health care for women, HI ACOG represents more than 200 obstetrician/gynecologist physicians in our state.

ACOG states that "reparative therapy aimed to change sexual orientation by provoking guilt and anxiety to shame those who do not identify as heterosexual is **ineffective and harmful**."¹ In addition, we agree with the recent policy statement released by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) which states "the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry finds no evidence to support the application of any 'therapeutic intervention' operating under the premise that a specific sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression is pathological. Furthermore, based on the scientific evidence, the AACAP asserts that such 'conversion therapies' (or other interventions imposed with the intent of promoting a particular sexual orientation and/or gender as a preferred outcome) lack scientific credibility and clinical utility. Additionally, **there is evidence that such interventions are harmful**."²

"Conversion therapy" is opposed by most of the mainstream medical and mental health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association to name a few.

Increasingly more states are taking action to protect LGBTQ youth from this harmful practice, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. It is high time Hawaii joined this list.

For these reasons, we urge you to protect Hawaii's youth and pass this critical bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Committee Opinion No. 525: Health Care for Lesbians and Bisexual Women. 2012.

² American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Policy Statement. 2018. Available at: https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Policy_Statements/2018/Conversion_Therapy.aspx

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 10:45:28 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Testifying for The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony submitted by Scott Foster, Chair, for The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i.



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COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

TUESDAY, February 20, 2018, 9:00 a.m., Room 229
SB 270, Relating to Minors

TESTIMONY

Joy Marshall, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

The League provides comments on SB270, which would prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on behalf of persons under 18 years of age.

Conversion therapy is a highly controversial practice of seeking to change, through therapy, an LGBTQ individual's sexual preference, orientation, or expression to heterosexuality. It is currently banned in 9 states and numerous municipalities throughout the US.

The League recognizes that representatives of some Christian institutions and affiliated organizations and individuals, cite religious, free speech, and parental rights as reasons to vigorously oppose such a ban. We are also aware that supporters raise evidence of harmful outcomes associated with conversion therapy and professional standards of care.

The League believes that all U.S. residents including minors should have access to a basic level of quality of care. We seriously doubt whether conversion therapy meets the standard of mental health care for either adults or adolescents. The medical literature does not see this as safe, and in fact most of the literature finds it to be harmful. We support having health care that is generally accepted by practitioners as safe and efficacious.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Karin Gill, Secretary	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle		

February 19, 2018

TO: Honorable Chair Baker and Members of Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health Committee

RE: SB 270 Relating to Minors

Support for hearing on Feb. 20

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 270 to prohibit professional counselors from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age. Conversion therapy is fiction. This bill is common sense.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



ONLINE SUBMITTAL

Hearing on: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 9:00 am.
Conference Room #229

DATE: February 19, 2018

TO: Senate Committee on Consumer Protection & Health
Sen. Roz Baker, Chair
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Opposition to SB270 Relating to Minors

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and various faith-based groups. We oppose this bill because we believe that this bill violates the right of parents to choose their child's therapy, provide appropriate and professional health care services, and practice their religion in accordance to their faith.

It is incomprehensible that on one hand faith-based 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 **unwanted** same-sex attraction issues.

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.

All professional organizations and state licensing boards already address the concerns behind this bill without incurring its negative consequences. True support for LGBTQ minors is not in banning therapy for those who CHOOSE to undergo this type of therapy, but by fostering the universal value of therapeutic CHOICE for all.

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; however, their religious freedom and convictions should not be denied in the process. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



February 16, 2018

Senate's Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 270** – RELATING TO MINORS

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 270 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 270 persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

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 (2014 DPH Platform pg. 4-5 lines 221-224 https://hidems.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/2014_platform.pdf) 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 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 270.

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/>

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.

LGBT Caucus Testimony is Strong support of
Senate Bill 270 – Relating to Minors

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 a member of the LGBT community 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 may have, you can reach me at 358-4417 (cell) or mgolojuch@hotmail.com

The LGBT Caucus of the DPH asks that you support this very important bill as it will save lives as well as send a message loud and clear that child abuse 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/>



Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY: FAYE KENNEDY, CHAIR HFCR

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 270
RELATING TO MINORS

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights supports programs and policies that ensure civil rights, diversity and inclusion in the state. HFCR supports SB 270 as we believe that the state should ban conversion therapy for minors.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 270, RELATING TO MINORS

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Baker and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 270, relating to minors.

Conversion therapy, often called “ex-gay” therapy, is child abuse and, as such, has no place in our society. Just a few years ago, our state recognized same-sex marriage. Yet, the consecration of this most basic of freedoms is a small step toward eradicating institutionalized bias toward LGBT citizens, whose sexuality is often seen as a discretionary act, rather than an essential aspect of their identities. Today, more than ever, the science is clear: sexual orientation is not a choice, but a biological fact, only the expression of which is socially determined.

Conversion therapy involves a rejection of a child's sexual or gender identity. Minors who experience rejection based on their sexual orientation face especially serious health risks. In one study, lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults who reported higher levels of rejection during adolescence were 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression, 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs, and 3.4 times more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse compared with their peers. This is documented by Caitlin Ryan et al. in their article entitled “Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults,” (2009) 123 *Pediatrics* 346.

Numerous medical, psychological, and mental health organizations have condemned conversion therapy as problematic, unscientific, and developmentally dangerous. The American Psychological Association convened a Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to

Sexual Orientation. The task force conducted a systematic review of peer-reviewed journal literature on sexual orientation change efforts and issued a report in 2009. The task force concluded that sexual orientation change efforts can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, including confusion, depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, disappointment, self-blame, decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others, increased self-hatred, hostility and blame toward parents, 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.

The American Psychological Association issued a resolution on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts in 2009, which states: "[T]he [American Psychological Association] advises parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder and to seek psychotherapy, social support, and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth."

The American Psychiatric Association published a position statement in March of 2000 in which it stated: "Psychotherapeutic modalities to convert or 'repair' homosexuality are based on developmental theories whose scientific validity is questionable. Furthermore, anecdotal reports of 'cures' are counterbalanced by anecdotal claims of psychological harm. In the last four decades, 'reparative' therapists have not produced any rigorous scientific research to substantiate their claims of cure. Until there is such research available, [the American Psychiatric Association] recommends that ethical practitioners refrain from attempts to change individuals' sexual orientation, keeping in mind the medical dictum to first, do no harm. The potential risks of reparative therapy are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient. Many patients who have undergone reparative therapy relate that they were inaccurately told that homosexuals are lonely, unhappy individuals who never achieve acceptance or satisfaction. The possibility that the person might achieve happiness and satisfying interpersonal relationships as a gay man or lesbian is not presented, nor are alternative approaches to dealing with the effects of societal stigmatization discussed. Therefore, the American Psychiatric Association opposes any psychiatric treatment such as reparative or conversion therapy which is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that a patient should change his or her sexual homosexual orientation."

The American School Counselor Association's position statement on professional school counselors and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth states: "It is not the role of the professional school counselor to attempt to change a student's sexual

orientation/gender identity but instead to provide support to LGBTQ students to promote student achievement and personal well-being. Recognizing that sexual orientation is not an illness and does not require treatment, professional school counselors may provide individual student planning or responsive services to LGBTQ students to promote self-acceptance, deal with social acceptance, understand issues related to coming out, including issues that families may face when a student goes through this process and identify appropriate community resources."

The American Academy of Pediatrics in 1993 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 little or no potential for achieving changes in orientation."

The American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs prepared a report in 1994 in which it stated: "Aversion therapy (a behavioral or medical intervention which pairs unwanted behavior, in this case, homosexual behavior, with unpleasant sensations or aversive consequences) is no longer recommended for gay men and lesbians. Through psychotherapy, gay men and lesbians can become comfortable with their sexual orientation and understand the societal response to it."

The National Association of Social Workers prepared a 1997 policy statement in which it stated: "Social stigmatization of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people is widespread and is a primary motivating factor in leading some people to seek sexual orientation changes. Sexual orientation conversion therapies assume that homosexual orientation is both pathological and freely chosen. No data demonstrates that reparative or conversion therapies are effective, and, in fact, they may be harmful."

The American Counseling Association Governing Council issued a position statement in April of 1999, and in it the council states: "We oppose 'the promotion of "reparative therapy" as a "cure" for individuals who are homosexual'."

The American Psychoanalytic Association issued a position statement in June 2012 on attempts to change sexual orientation, gender, identity, or gender expression, and in it the association states: "As with any societal prejudice, bias against individuals based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression negatively affects mental health, contributing to an enduring sense of stigma and pervasive self-criticism through the internalization of such prejudice; and psychoanalytic technique does not encompass purposeful attempts to 'convert,' 'repair,' change or shift an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such directed efforts are against fundamental principles of psychoanalytic treatment and often result in substantial psychological pain by reinforcing damaging internalized attitudes."

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in 2012 published an article in its journal, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, stating: "Clinicians should be aware that there is no evidence that sexual orientation can be altered through therapy, and that attempts to do so may be harmful. There is no empirical evidence adult homosexuality can be prevented if gender nonconforming children are influenced to be more gender conforming. Indeed, there is no medically valid basis for attempting to prevent homosexuality, which is not an illness. On the contrary, such efforts may encourage family rejection and undermine self-esteem, connectedness and caring, important protective factors against suicidal ideation and attempts. Given that there is no evidence that efforts to alter sexual orientation are effective, beneficial or necessary, and the possibility that they carry the risk of significant harm, such interventions are contraindicated."

The Pan American Health Organization, a regional office of the World Health Organization, issued a statement in May of 2012 and in it the organization states: "These supposed conversion therapies constitute a violation of the ethical principles of health care and violate human rights that are protected by international and regional agreements." The organization also noted that reparative therapies "lack medical justification and represent a serious threat to the health and well-being of affected people."

Finally, it is imperative to note that this measure in no way impacts the right of religious organizations to offer conversion counseling or "ex-gay" programs on their own grounds or under the supervision of churches. Rather, this bill merely prevents certified professional counselors from doing so, protecting the public from those who would misuse their professional status to perpetrate medically inaccurate and psychologically hazardous practices—bullying and discrimination—on our keiki.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance



Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection and Health,

On behalf of the nearly 600 registered members of the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) Hawai'i, I would like to express strong support for SB270.

Conversion therapy is unethical. Not only has the American Psychological Association determined that the “results of scientifically valid research indicate that it is unlikely that individuals will be able to reduce same-sex attractions or increase other-sex sexual attractions through [conversion therapy],” but it has also shown that children experiencing the parental rejection associated with such therapy are more than eight times as likely to commit suicide, nearly six times more likely to report high levels of depression, more than three times as likely to use drugs and more than three times as likely to be at high risk for HIV and other STDs.

Conversion therapy is wrong. Sexual orientation is not a choice, it is a part of a persons' identity. To arbitrarily decide that an integral part of another human being's identity is wrong based on religious or so-called "moral" reasons is a cruel violation of that human being's self-determination. Self-determination is a human right. What's more, these are children. And forcing conversion therapy on them is tantamount to predation. Conversion therapists are taking advantage of vulnerable children who are struggling with their identities in an often hostile society. There is nothing moral about violating human rights and taking advantage of children to push an organized religious creed or social agenda. We must outlaw this harmful, unethical, immoral practice in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection and Health
Hearing: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
Re: Testimony in strong support of S.B. 270, relating to Minors

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Save Medicaid Hawaii writes in strong support of S.B. 270, which seeks to prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts (commonly known as “conversion therapy”) on persons under 18 years of age.

S.B. 270 seeks to protect LGBT youth from “conversion therapy,” which has been found to be dangerous, inhumane and long discredited by respected medical and mental health institutions, including the American Psychological Association. It has subsequently been outlawed for licensed mental health providers in nine states and the District of Columbia. We can do better for Hawaii’s youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Doris Segal Matsunaga
Save Medicaid Hawaii

savemedicaidhawaii@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/SaveMedicaidHawaii/>

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 6:40:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Testifying for Filipina Advocacy Network FAN	Support	No

Comments:

FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 270 prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

Every teenager, including Filipinos should not be subjected to conversion therapy.

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
Re: Testimony in strong support of S.B. 270, relating to Minors

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in strong support of S.B. 270, which seeks to prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts (commonly known as “conversion therapy”) on persons under 18 years of age.

LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights are deeply connected to justice for all. We have long stood with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the struggle for full equality — many of whom turn to Planned Parenthood for health care, information, and education. We are committed to building a world where no one experiences discrimination or violence because of their gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

We support S.B. 270 because it seeks to protect LGBT youth from “conversion therapy,” which has been found to be dangerous, inhumane and long discredited by respected medical and mental health institutions, including the American Psychological Association. It has subsequently been outlawed for licensed mental health providers in nine states and the District of Columbia. We can do better for Hawaii’s youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director



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

February 18, 2018

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re. SB 270, Relating to Minors

Dear Chairperson Baker and Vice Chairperson Tokuda:

I write to you in support of SB 270, "*Relating to Minors.*"

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is a national nonprofit legal organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and their families. NCLR's youth project was founded in 1993 specifically to address the mistreatment of LGBT youth in the mental health system. As part of the #BornPerfect campaign, we support a network of survivors of these dangerous and discredited practices through the process of telling what can be deeply re-traumatizing stories. We have seen firsthand the devastating impact on parents and families when they are misled by state-licensed professionals who give them false information that therapy can change a child's sexual orientation or gender identity. Tragically, based on our direct experience as well as that of others who serve this young population, all the children subjected to these dangerous practices are harmed, but not all of them survive.

Modern science recognizes that being LGBT is not a disorder. 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. 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. In October 2015, 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.



NCLR has helped defend laws like SB 270 before the Third and Ninth Federal Circuit Courts, both of which have concluded that these regulations are legally beyond dispute. This past May, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a law just like this one for a fourth time. The courts have made it clear that these regulations are constitutionally sound. 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 all other laws that protect the public against ineffective and unsafe treatment by licensed professionals, it will only ensure that state-licensed mental health providers cannot subject minor patients to dangerous, ineffective, and discredited practices—and cannot defraud and mislead loving parents who would never knowingly place their children at risk of such serious harms, and who count on the law to regulate medical professionals to prevent them from harming their children.

Working closely with survivors of conversion therapy, I know all too well that this is truly a matter of life and death. We have lost too many along the way to finally ending these practices for good. The tragic death by suicide of Leelah Alcorn, a transgender teenage girl who said that undergoing conversion therapy made her feel more isolated and rejected, 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. SB 270 would protect the most vulnerable among us from being told that who they are is wrong and protect families from the terrible pain of discovering that they have been defrauded by trusted professionals who abuse their state licenses to tell children that they were born anything but perfect.

I respectfully request that the Committee adopt a favorable report for SB 270 as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Reyes, Esq., MSW
Youth Policy Counsel & #BornPerfect Campaign Coordinator

**Chair Baker
Vice Chair Tokuda
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

**Tuesday February 20, 2018
9:00 AM**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB270 RELATING TO MINORS

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Jun Shin and I am a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii. I am writing this in **strong support of SB270**.

In November 12, 2013, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 passed. The State of Hawaii was further ahead than the federal government, with marriage equality becoming the law of the whole United States in June 26, 2015. However, despite such accomplishments, we still have a lot of work to do to insure that our friends and family in the LGBTQIA+ community get the equality that they deserve as our fellow human beings because who you choose to love, who you choose to be as a person, how you choose to express yourself should never ever be looked upon as something weird or something to be looked down upon. What this bill does is stands up for this and takes the fight to the next layer of bigotry we need to take down and that is conversion therapy. As the Human Rights Campaign describes it, conversion therapy, "sometimes known as "reparative therapy," is a range of dangerous and discredited practices that falsely claim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression".

This is horrifying. They are trying to change something that's normal. Being a gay person, being an asexual person, being a bisexual person, that's not like having appendicitis or having to get scoliosis surgery like I did for my spine, it's just who you are as a person. People who are in charge of bringing you comfort, people who you look to for advice when things get tough, they shouldn't be trying to destroy you and your love for someone because they or people around you don't like the fact that you love and want to share your life with an individual who just so happens to be of the same gender as yourself or you want to begin the transition to become who you truly are.

As the Hawaii State Department of Health's 2017 health report on Hawaii's Sexual and Gender Minority communities pointed out, LGB youth are almost 4 times as likely to have attempted suicide and 43% of them have been bullied either at school or online. It is heartbreaking that is also pointed out that more than 1 in 3 young people of the LGBTQIA+ community lack an adult voice to guide them (<http://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf>). By fighting for this bill, it is my hope that I will be able to help give my fellow contemporaries real role models and counselors who are really there to understand and give guidance. **Please pass SB270.**

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation,

Jun Shin,
Board Member At-Large
Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawaii
1561 Kanunu St. #2106 Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 12:50:40 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Honolulu County Republican Party affirms that parents have the fundamental right and primary responsibility to direct the upbringing of their children and to provide nurturing, discipline, healthcare, and training in moral values.

SB-270 follows a growing movement by activists to pass state legislation to prevent mental-health professionals from providing assistance to minors with unwanted same-sex attractions. These children can include those that have been sexually abused and begin to question their sexual attractions and identity. Bans on sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) for minors would deny them the professional help and healing they need, as determined by their parents.

Both the American Psychiatric and Psychological Associations call for practitioners to respect the moral values of their clients and assert that clients have the right to autonomy and self-determination.

Brett Kulbis

Honolulu County Chairman

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 10:18:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Taylor	Testifying for Hawaii LGBT Legal Association	Support	No

Comments:

February 20, 2018

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 270 – Relating to Minors – SUPPORT**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 20, 2018, 9:00 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 270, which would prohibit licensed mental health professions from practicing conversion therapy on minors.

Hawaii's children should never be subjected to harmful practices by their trusted mental health professionals. Sexual orientation change efforts ("SOCE"), commonly known as conversion therapy, has been shown to cause lasting harm to young people, and the nation's leading mental health organizations, including but not limited to the American Psychological Association and the National Association of Social Workers, have condemned the practice.¹ SOCE and family rejection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth has been linked to anxiety, depression, and suicide. Those who practice SOCE on minors base their practice on the assumption that sexual orientation is a choice, and that homosexuality is a disorder that can and should be "cured." The medical consensus is that this is untrue, and the practice of conversion therapy violates best practices in mental health.

In addition to potentially causing serious negative health outcomes for young people, SOCE is ineffective in changing a person's sexual orientation. Those who advertise that they can change a person's sexual orientation through therapy may be acting in violation of Hawaii's consumer protection laws. In 2015, a New Jersey trial court found that an organization claiming to have the ability to "convert" people from gay to straight acted in violation of the state's consumer protection laws.² Laws banning SOCE, on the other hand, have been upheld in several jurisdictions, and the United States Supreme Court has declined review of federal rulings upholding these bans. SB 270, if passed into law, would almost certainly withstand any similar constitutional challenge.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests your Committee to support this measure.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.

¹ Just the Facts Coalition. (2008). *Just the facts about sexual orientation and youth: A primer for principals, educators, and school personnel*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Retrieved from www.apa.org/pi/lgbcc/publications/justthefacts.html.; National Association of Social Workers, National Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues. (2015). *Position statement: Sexual orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) and Conversion Therapy with Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals, and Transgender Persons*. Retrieved from <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yH3UsGQQmYI%3d&portalid=0>.

² *Ferguson, et al. v. JONAH, et al*, 136 A.3d 447 (2014).



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Email: hpaexec@gmail.com
Phone: (808) 521-8995

COMMITTEE ON COMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 9:00AM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony IN SUPPORT OF SB270
RELATING TO MINORS

The Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA) supports SB270 which seeks to protect the physical and psychological wellbeing of minors against exposure to harm caused by Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE; also known as “Conversion Therapy”). According to the American Psychological Association (APA), there is insufficient research evidence to demonstrate the efficacy of SOCE. There is also no evidence that providing SOCE therapies to children or adolescents has an impact on their Adult sexual orientation or on adult gender identity.

The APA found SOCE therapies tend to do more harm than good. Not only do children and adolescents get misinformation, they also are at risk of increased self-stigma and psychological distress. Children and adolescents who participate in these types of interventions are given inaccurate scientific information regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. These types of therapies also often use fear based techniques and have the potential to increase stigma. Participants also often report an increase in distress and depression especially when such “therapies” do not work. SOCE participants report negative consequences of SOCE interventions such as, anger, anxiety, depression, guilt, hopelessness, loss of social support, relationship problems with significant others and families, social isolation, suicidal thoughts, self-hatred, and sexual dysfunction. As such, these types of coercive techniques are contrary to current clinical and professional standards. These types of interventions violate current clinical practice by not protecting the client’s autonomy and by ignoring scientific information on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Although some opponents of this bill have tried to suggest that there is disagreement among researchers about the evidence in this area, they have referenced publications by anti-gay

organizations only. All the major organizations of professionals involved in treating children have issued statements opposing Sexual Orientation Change therapy, including the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric Association, and the National Association of Social Workers. This consensus of professional opinion is very well documented in a 2015 publication by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 15-4928. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015. It can be read by following this link: <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf>)

The bill does not hinder mental health providers, clergy or parents from counseling youth or offering a range of other, more standard clinical psychological services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children and adolescents. The bill regulates the services being provided to LGBT children and adolescents to provide them protections against being exposed to harm through SOCE therapies that might be chosen for them by adults. The bill is in line with APA practice standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important subject.

Sincerely,

Tanya Gamby, Ph.D.
2018 HPA President

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:48:36 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	Testifying for The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 20, 2018

Re: SUPPORT for SB 270, 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 Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), on behalf of its members and supporters in Hawaii, thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 270, 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 swiftly pass this important legislation.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. As an advocate for LGBTQ 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 called "sexual orientation change efforts" or "reparative therapy," refers to practices that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. These practices are based on the false idea that being LGBTQ is a mental illness that needs to be cured, an idea which has been rejected by every major mental health group. Conversion therapy does not include therapies that provide acceptance, support, or understanding of LGBTQ 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 conversion therapy is not an acceptable or responsible professional practice when applied to young people under the age of eighteen.

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 LGBTQ youth. These 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 LGBTQ 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. A recent Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law report revealed that an estimated 20,000 LGBT minors in states without protections will be subjected to conversion therapy by a licensed healthcare professional if state officials fail to act.² These protections simply cannot wait.

Research shows that young people experience conversion therapy as a form of family rejection, and LGBTQ 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.³ 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 LGBTQ 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 Brown, Taylor N.T., Conron, Kerith J., and Mallory, Christy. *Conversion Therapy and LGBTQ Youth*, The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law (Jan. 2018).

³ 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).

From: [Carolyn Golojuch](#)
Subject: SB 270 Strong Support for Ban on Conversion Therapy
Date: Monday, February 19, 2018 12:48:10 AM

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Roz Baker, Chair

and Members on the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

Hawaii State Capitol

[514 Beretania Street](#)

[Honolulu, Hawaii 96813](#)

RE: Strong Support for SB 270 – STRONG SUPPORT OF BAN ON CONVERSION THERAPY

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB 270 for a Ban on Conversion Therapy and have for some years. Our Rainbow Family 808 stands up for the support of the many families in Hawaii and their rights to live lives free of persecution, fear and intimidation.

Our Aloha state reports that our keiki are precious and respected. Yet many issues continue to allow situations that cause our children pain and suffering. It is reprehensible that our children have been used as pawns by those with less than respectable goals. Now is the time for our families to live free to be who they are. Hawaii needs to provide an atmosphere of aloha, support and love of justice for all families.

Rainbow Family 808 respectfully requests that SB 270 be passed to establish protection from this fake scheme that destroys self identification, human worth and sometimes their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for our families with SB 207.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch

President and Co-Founder

Rainbow Family 808

--

Carolyn Golojuch, MSW

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71

Kapolei, HI 96707

(808) 779-9078

gomama808@gmail.com

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

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 16, 2018

To: Senator Roslyn Baker, Chair
And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 270 RELATING TO MINORS

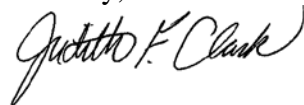
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 270 Relating to Minors.

There is no scientific evidence to show that sexual orientation conversion therapy is effective, and much evidence to demonstrate that it can have harmful effects. Sexual conversion therapy can result in depression, social withdrawal, and even suicide. No major mental health professional association sanctions efforts to change sexual orientation and virtually all of them have adopted policy statements cautioning the profession and the public about treatments that purport to change sexual orientation.

Youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questions (LGBTQ) should have access to counseling that provide acceptance, support and understanding. They should not be subjected to ineffective practices that are rooted in intolerance of diversity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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



Submitted Online
For Hearing:
Committee:

February 17, 2018
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 9:00 am.
Senate CPH #229

TO: Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Sen. Roz Baker, Chair
Sen. Jill Tokuda

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to SB 270 Relating to Child Protection

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection & Health, 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 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 SB270 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 to obtain all possible assistance."

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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

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SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 2:32:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reverend Dr. Neil G Cazares-Thomas	Testifying for Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ	Support	No

Comments:

As a Christian minister I often receive in my office folks who have been abused by these fraudulent practices that suggest that someone can change their sexual orientation through so-called, "aversion therapy". They have been proven to be psychologically damaging and are not supported by any credible counselling organization.

I strongly support SB270 and sincerely hope this measure, prohibiting persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

Personally, I would ban it completely. I support this because of my first hand experience and my faith.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 2:13:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miranda Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please ban this dangerous and ineffective treatment.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 2:15:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 2:19:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and Vice Chair Vice-Chair Jill N. Tokuda,

I strongly support SB270 which prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

Research has shown the sexual orientation is fixed at birth and is not learned behavior. It is something that cannot be changed by counseling and/or therapy, and in fact such attempts are detrimental and damaging to the psychological well being of individuals.

My only reservation on this bill is that it only applies to persons under 18 years of age. It should apply to all individuals regardless of age.

Nonetheless I strongly support SB270 and urge you to pass this from your committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Sincerely,
Nathan Yuen

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 2:41:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alexis musolff-carney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

People have a right to their own and ONLY their own sexuality.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 3:03:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Olson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 3:11:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 3:19:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 270, which prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age. Our youth do not need to be anything other than who they are. Normal behavior is a range of expression, some we like, some we don't like, but change is not the purview of those outside of our own lives. Children should be allowed to grow into their lives, not be convinced that they are not ok. Please pass SB 270

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 3:28:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Savino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testomy in favor of SB 270.

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry finds no evidence to support the application of any “therapeutic intervention” operating under the premise that a specific sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression is pathological. Furthermore, based on the scientific evidence, the AACAP asserts that such “conversion therapies” (or other interventions imposed with the intent of promoting a particular sexual orientation and/or gender as a preferred outcome) lack scientific credibility and clinical utility. Additionally, there is evidence that such interventions are harmful. As a result, “conversion therapies” should not be part of any behavioral health treatment of children and adolescents."

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 3:28:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 4:02:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 10:10:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Letani Peltier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 7:56:53 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JUDY DEATER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB270. So-called therapy to make gay people straight is cruel and inhuman and must be banned.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 1:19:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB270. It is not the governments role to interfere with a person's civil liberty, equality and first amendment rights of the US Constitution.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 8:36:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in opposition to SB270 for the following reasons:

It is a fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children, especially in the area of sexuality.

We should uphold the freedom of choice in areas of therapy for mental health.

The serious matter of raising children with healthy outlooks on their own sexuality and being able to choose what a parent feels is best to help their child in understanding their thoughts and feelings is what is at stake in this bill. Please oppose SB 270 for the sake of parental rights and their freedom of choice.

Sincerely,

Lora Burbage

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 9:30:24 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Cooper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill based on the conclusion of The American Psychological Association Task Force that sexual orientation change efforts can pose critical and/or potentially fatal health risks to lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals.

February 17, 2018

Aloha kākou,

My name is Roy Kākulu Alameida, a resident of Kea‘au, Hawai‘i. I submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 270 - RELATING TO MINORS

SB 270 prohibits persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age.

I am asking for support from members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

Mahalo nui,

Roy Alameida

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 12:25:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeunesse Francis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to support SB270.

I have two children who are young adults now, who struggled with gender identify and sexual orientation. Along the way we met a range of professionals who were supportive but we have had some experiences where the professional created more confusion, depression and anxiety in an already difficult experience. One therapist suggested my child would "feel better" if they accepted that being gay wasn't a good thing.

While it is easy to think that your "helping" a child under 18 by persuading them that what they are experiencing is abnormal because of their gender, nothing is further from the truth. We are just beginning to explore and understand the complicated world of emerging sexuality and gender identification, and professionals placed in a position of authority over our children must pause and allow for them to grow and adapt without forcing changes that may alter their well being for the rest of their lives.

Pediatric mental health challenges are many and complicated to say the least, but we must remember sexual orientation is not a mental health issue. It's an emergent understanding of gender attraction that doesn't need correction. For one of my children, it's still a constant struggle.

As we move toward a better society filled with inclusion and acceptance, we should not allow mental health professionals to push their own ideas of what correct sexual orientation is. Instead we should allow these young patients to express, be acknowledged and be accepted for who they are, not who they are attracted to.

Thank you for your time.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 12:31:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our LGBT young people need clear affirmations that their lives and contributions are valued and important. Anything less than that level of care and reflection could lead to internalized self-loathing and at worse suicide. Thank you for protecting our keiki.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 12:34:02 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Conversion therapy is disgusting, cruel and inhumane and there is no excuse for anyone who would try to promote it. I am in strong support of this measure to ban all conversion therapy programs.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 12:43:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimi Ide-Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of S.B. 270, which seeks to prohibit persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts (commonly known as “conversion therapy”) on persons under 18 years of age.

LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights are deeply connected to justice for all. Although I identify as heterosexual, many of my closest friends are LGBTQ and they should never need to fear experiencing discrimination or violence because of their gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

I support S.B. 270 because it seeks to protect LGBT youth from “conversion therapy,” which has been found to be dangerous, inhumane and long discredited by respected medical and mental health institutions, including the American Psychological Association. It has subsequently been outlawed for licensed mental health providers in nine states and the District of Columbia.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Kimi Ide-Foster, Esq.

If you are a heterosexual person,

imagine being twelve years old and being forced into conversion therapy whose sole goal is to

make you gay.

Imagine the lifetime of hurt, confusion, and angst that would be chained to your soul for the rest of your life.

Do not let this happen to any child.

Please support Senate Bill 270.

Rusty Gage
POBox 792024
Paia, HI 96779
808-856-9395
rustygage@gmail.com

Conversion therapy is a horror, a pseudoscience with the effectiveness of patent medicine, because what it attempts to do is change an integral part of a person. It is the ultimate in bullying, and accomplishes nothing good, although it can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide especially for minors. There is significant anecdotal evidence of harm to LGBTQ people resulting from attempts to change their sexual orientation and gender identity. Based on this body of evidence, every major medical and mental health organization in the United States has issued a statement condemning the use of conversion therapy.

Thank you for your time.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 2:34:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Willweber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass SB 270, the ban on talk therapy. Parents have the right to decide what treatment is best for their children. In addition, anyone who has worked with adolescents recognizes that their thinking fluctuates, that they may experiment and that they can get confused easily, including along the lines of sexual orientation or sexual feelings. To ban young people from a particular therapy would take away an option which could help bring stability to this challenging age of identity formation.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 1:09:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 2:19:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Wildberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please accept this message as support for this bill. Conversion therapy needs to be a dark part of our past. Sexuality is a spectrum. Every individual needs to be able to find their own path. Society and particularly professionals charged with helping people find that path, must not impose their narrow value systems on others. Radical religious inclination has no place in our government nor our medical systems. Everyone should have equal opportunity to pursue happiness. Please help those who already face social stigma and challenges in our intolerant society. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 3:20:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Haole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in total support for SB 270 which **prohibits** persons licensed to provide professional counseling from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age. This type of counseling is nothing short of "brain washing," imposed on people, young or old, already dealing with a plethora of social identity injustices. Sexual orientation is an individual choice matter and not something that anyone has the right to dictate or control. So many young people have taken their lives, destroyed by others who feel the need to undermine and destroy their personal identities and replace it lies and demoralization. This is not good for anyone, least of all our youth.

Thank you for your time and effort to receive testimony.

Respectfully,

William P. Haole, III

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 3:04:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of SB270. Conversion therapy does not work. Instead, it demeans the youngster and is emotionally harmful to him or her. It's a draconian type of therapy and should be removed from our lexicon entirely.

Thank you for your support in abolishing conversion therapy in the State of Hawai'i.

Eileen McKee

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 3:20:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee Feb. 20th 2018 at 9am room 229

I support SB 270 because children under 18 should be allowed to grow up and decide their own sexual nature. Please pass SB 270. Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Gannon District 5 Precinct 6 Chair Hawaii Island

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 4:08:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to offer my STRONG SUPPORT of SB270 which will prevent professionals and others who do counseling as part of their profession from trying to re-educate youth on their sexuality. By this time in our history, we are well informed that this is not a choice and that the very best practice for youth and anyone who is LGBTQ+ is to offer our absolute love and support.

I support S.B. 270 because it seeks to protect LGBT youth from “conversion therapy,” which has been found to be dangerous, inhumane and long discredited by respected medical and mental health institutions, including the American Psychological Association. It has subsequently been outlawed for licensed mental health providers in nine states and the District of Colombia. We can do better for Hawaii’s youth. Mahalo!A

Peace be the journey,
Stacey Moniz

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 4:29:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please vote in support of this bill. The LGBT community already has a much higher rate of suicides, drug, and addiction in our adolescent. Being comfortable in ones skin is a huge task that is difficult under normal circumstances, but in the LGBT community we are raised in with a huge sense of shame for being yourself because of the heteronormative society we exist in. Teenagers already have it hard trying to find themselves, please pass this and ensure some protections to our youth. Conversion therapies can cause irrepreable damage and really not accomplish anything. In 2007 the American Psychological Association did a study on conversion thereapy and found there isn't anything scientifically pointing to that you can change your sexual preference. On top of this The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry found that these therapies can be harmful and should not be a part any behavioral or psychological treatment of adolescents. I strongly urge you to support this bill and protect our youth. Our youth are who inherit our earth and if we don't bring up emotionally stable children then we will all suffer later.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 4:58:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The American Psychological Association has stated that Conversion Therapy is a high risk practice that leads to depression, social withdrawal, & suicide. This is not really "Therapy" but a form of "forced mind" control attempting to change or brain wash the individual. "conversion therapy" is known to lead to helplessness, hopelessness & shame. This is not a HEALTHY, valid form of mental health and should not be permitted in the State of Hawaii.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 5:56:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

These children that are sexual oriented towards others that are the same sex as them are not choosing to be that way. Studies have shown that, even at a young age,,their brain 'lights up' to those of the same sex when shown pictures. Their brain doesn't 'lght up' when shown those of the opposite sex. Their brain chemistry changed while in the womb. According to other studies, chemical imbalances brought about through the environment effect the developement of the child. Conversion therapy does not address this and can be dangerous to a child that already has low self-esteem because of their sexual orientation that they cannot help.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 4:53:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 6:05:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geoffry Spangler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB270. The issue of gay conversion therapy has been something I have actively contacted my representatives, at the city, state, and federal levels, to implement. I am proud to see the Legislature taking this issue on. I firmly believe that no child should be subjected to this disgusting practice. It represents a clear and present threat to their mental health and identity and is designed to make them feel ashamed of who they are. In Hawaii, everyone should be able to feel like they belong, regardless of race, gender, creed, nationality, or sexual orientation. This bill is a step in a positive direction. Thank you.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 6:44:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 6:44:31 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marianne jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Having been a practicing professional counselor for 30 years i can testify that conversion therapy is abuse.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 7:30:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Storm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I oppose the practice of "Conversion Therapy" as it has been clearly shown to be harmful and useless.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 9:00am

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

FROM: Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH

Re: SB 270 – Relating to Minors
Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist and I provide gynecologic and reproductive healthcare to children and adolescents. Childhood and adolescence are periods of rapid change during which young people are forming their identities and gaining an understanding of themselves with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation. It is imperative that we as a society support our young people in this process, regardless of the identities that they discover for themselves.

Reparative or conversion therapies employ guilt, anxiety, and shame as strategies to convince children and adolescents that certain sexual orientations or gender identities are pathologic. These interventions are not based on scientific evidence, and current evidence demonstrates that these therapies are harmful. Numerous professional medical organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists have taken a firm position against conversion therapies.

Additionally, many states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia) have taken legislative steps to protect their children and adolescents from conversion therapies. Hawaii has historically been at the forefront of healthcare and protection for its citizens, and it is time to do that for our youth.

Please protect the health and wellbeing of our young people by supporting SB 270 and prohibiting the use of harmful conversion therapy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH
1319 Punahou St. Ste. 824
Honolulu, HI 96826
sraidoo@hawaii.edu

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Lynn Robinson-Onderko and I am resident of Ewa Beach. I am writing in strong support of SB270. The American Academy of Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association and other accredited organizations have published reports discrediting and detailing the dangers of “reparative” or “conversion” therapies. These practices are abusive and should be banned in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I hope you will make the health and well-being of our young people your top priority and vote to move this bill forward.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 8:45:30 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Harper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I total DO NOT support this House Bill 270. This 'Conversion Therapy' is very detrimental to the individuals it is intended to "protect". Check out the percentage of kids that have committed suicide after this so called 'saving' therapy! Please DO NOT consider this an option.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 1:49:32 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB270 Prohibiting persons who are licensed in providing professional counseling and from engaging in, attempting to engage in, or advertising sexual orientation change efforts on persons under 18 years of age. Sexual orientation conversion is not only harmful but dangerous to our youth. Conversion Therapy is child abuse - BAN Conversion Therapy!

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 8:39:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Conversion therapy is barbaric and cruel.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 10:29:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Senators of Hawaii,

If you relate to how many times you changed your mind when you were a teenager, you will agree that an individual under the age of 18, is too young to make a decision that will be permanently impacting their lives as an adult. I support this bill ensuring that a mature person is making such an important decision.

Respectfully submitted,

April Lee

Hawi, HI

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 10:46:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

No professional therapist would attempt to impose his/her moral beliefs on another. A person comes to therapy with a felt problem; the therapist does not impose a problem at a third party's request.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 8:46:29 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB270. Our state's physicians, PAs, and psychologists have a **professional obligation not to harm** the people they seek to assist. Hawaii's mental health professionals should not offer a therapy which has been deemed by the American Psychological Association to pose **health risks** and **lack scientific basis**.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 9:50:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB270. I have met LGBT adults, who as children, were subjected to a variety of physical and mental abuses "to make them straight." This is criminal and children should not be subjected to such violence.

Please pass SB270. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.

Mike Golojuch

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 10:06:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holli Shiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge this committee to pass SB270. "Conversion Therapy" is a form of child abuse that needs to be banned to protect our children from harm. All of the following organizations oppose "conversion therapy" citing negative and harmful outcomes to the individual:

American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, American School Health Association, National Association of Social Workers, Pan American Health Organization, Just The Facts Coalition, and World Psychiatric Association

Sincerely,

Holli Shiro

Volcano, HI

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 1:31:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Mateo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB270 to ban conversion therapy in relation to minors.

Conversion therapy can be extremely dangerous and, in some cases, fatal. In 2009, the APA issued a report concluding that the reported risks of the practices include: depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, disappointment, self-blame, decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others, increased self-hatred, hostility and blame toward parents, 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.

The risks are even greater for youth. Minors who experience family rejection based on their sexual orientation or gender identity face especially serious health risks. Research shows that lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults who reported higher levels of family rejection during adolescence were more than eight times more likely to report having attempted suicide, more than five times more likely to report high levels of depression, more than three times more likely to use illegal drugs, and more than three times more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse compared with peers from families that reported no or low levels of family rejection.

I ask for your vote in support of SB270 to stand up to protect our children that can't stand up and protect themselves from this dangerous practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration

James Mateo

91-215 Niuhiwa Pl

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 11:33:19 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Mader	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support SB270.

Mahalo!!

Deborah Mader

Kihei, HI

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 3:20:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malachy Grange	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB270 which prohibits 'Conversion Therapy' on minors in Hawaii. This is a terrible mistake as has been shown to damage teens who have identified as gay or are unsure of their sexual preference. It can cause teens to develop crippling shame, low self esteem and alienation from their families and communities. We don't need this bad idea and practice in Hawaii.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 2:21:00 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 4:18:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 3:45:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Fritts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Twelve of 13 peer-reviewed studies show that Conversion Therapy is ineffective and/or harmful, finding links to depression, suicidality, anxiety, social isolation. We need to stop these abusive practices and stand up for the Civil Rights of these human beings. <http://whatweknow.law.columbia.edu/topics/lgbt-equality/what-does-the-scholarly-research-say-about-whether-conversion-therapy-can-alter-sexual-orientation-without-causing-harm/>

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 4:52:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Richard Onderko and I am resident of Ewa Beach. I am writing in strong support of SB270. The American Academy of Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association and other accredited organizations have published reports discrediting and detailing the dangers of "reparative" or "conversion" therapies. These practices are abusive and should be banned in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I hope you will make the health and well-being of our young people your top priority and vote to move this bill forward.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 4:49:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Mateo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the banning of conversation therapy because we are who we are and no one "NO ONE" has the right to give word or feel that they are entitled to make this type of decision for anyone else. They think that they have a cure to something that is not even a state of mind or a symptom of..... Its not even a choice but basic human decency of letting humans living their lives the way they want.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 6:28:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To me this is a 'no-brainer.' I hope you will seriously support this bill and get it passed onto the floor for real debate.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 6:40:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This shouldn't even be a question...please support this bill. Thank you Tulsi Greenlee

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 6:59:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karl Sherlock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re: SB270 Ban on Conversion Therapy (**Trigger Warning:** This testimonial contains detailed references to trauma and torture)

To Hawaii’s Senate Committee for Consumer Protection and Health:

With the consent and support of my husband, Max Earl Hughey, Jr., I implore you to ban so-called conversion therapy, which has long been, and continues to be, a cruel euphemism for sanctioned programmatic torture.

In the 1970s, my husband, then a completely sexually inexperienced sixteen-year-old, came out to his Michigan Assemblies of God family, the single-most disastrous decision of his life. His parents were persuaded to commit him to a local sanitarium for a period of three months of religiously based “therapy,” during which time he was daily strapped to a gurney, sobbing and screaming, savaged by caustic chemicals like Indoklon gas, and unremittingly shocked with electroconvulsive treatments—all for having done nothing but admit a same-sex attraction. One of the many horrific details of the procedure that so often goes undiscussed is its tacit terror. It is, in point of fact, a form of extraordinary rendition: subjects are typically taken off the grid for their “therapy” and gulaged from any chance of rescue or outside support; they’re kept in a controlled state of secrecy, vulnerability, anxiety, and helpless dependency on their captors. In Max’s case, not only were his parents prevented from monitoring his brutal reprogramming procedures, even sympathetic medical staff were threatened not to intervene on his behalf. Eventually, his involuntary screams during the procedure had become so uncomfortable for the staff to hear, a paralyzing agent was administered to his vocal cords to ensure he would remain unheard during and after the procedure. To this very day, now at age 63, he still has night terrors about being fully conscious but unable to scream while his brain felt like it was disintegrating into ash.

None of my own words can adequately capture with accuracy the *degree* of terror this innocent sixteen-year-old was forced to experience, nor the ineluctable lifelong consequences of it. An extremely bright, ethically grounded, and otherwise untroublesome “A” student--one who dutifully looked out for his disabled brother and tried to make sense of his own adolescence, just like any other teen—had his life, his health, and his family relationships destroyed in the name of therapy. After his sanitarium experience, Max soon broke ties with his family, lapsed into severe

depression, and for a time lived out of his car. After meeting a partner, Chip, who helped to lift him from this lowest point of his life, Max found the courage to go back to school, earned a prestigious scholarship to attend law school, and eventually landed a career as one of the youngest hospital administrators ever to have worked for an ivy league medical center. Just as he seemed to be putting the past behind him, those three months in the sanitarium found yet more ways to scourge his life. Because of the long-term effects of the chemicals he endured, along with the trauma of the experience, itself, Max succumbed to a rare intractable ulcer syndrome that led to a near fatal gastric bleed and incurred two major surgeries, the last of which removed two-thirds of his stomach. The primary and secondary consequences of these surgeries have resulted in more than thirty years of living with *severe* medical disability, physical discomfort, and daily pain management. Owing to the permanent postsurgical gastric syndrome that followed, he has been generally unable to eat solid food without becoming violently ill and going into shock. For a while, the subsequent damage to his pancreas made him a subject of curiosity for medical research: he had been one of merely a handful of insulin-resistant patients in the U.S. to be hooked up to a U500 insulin pump 24-hours a day. Throughout all of this, though, the emotional scars of his conversion experience have not lessened, nor have they been overshadowed by these ongoing physical and medical problems. Unalleviated by clinical trauma therapy, the post-traumatic stress remains shackled to him for life, manifesting in heart disease, chronic sleep deprivation, frequent somnambulism, aggressive Type 2 diabetes, and constant management of malnutrition and malabsorption, not to mention the very real triggers that continue to send him into sudden panic attacks.

In submitting this testimonial, Max and I realize we are fortunate to be alive in an era where our relationship is at last respected through the sanctity of civil marriage (for now, anyways). However, that this testimonial should warrant a trigger warning is more than just a painful irony. Hiding in plain sight, bigoted religion-based rendition techniques like conversion “therapy” continue to torture young people in the name of religious freedom and health, as if there were anything legitimately spiritual or medical about any of it. (In fact, some of its victims aren’t even gay or bisexual!) As a nation, we cannot claim to be uncomfortably disturbed by the plight of minors forced to submit to torture, then at the same time sanction paralyzing them of the one defense they have left: an ability to cry out to us for help! Max and I beg you--*BEG YOU!*--not to let his happen to your children, your neighbors’ children, your fellow parishioners’ children, or anyone else. Conversion therapy is not merely a lie, it is a life sentence of trauma and misery. Confusing morality with wellness, it gives the false imprimatur of “therapy” to an inquisitor’s brainwashing, all so that an ideological minority can feel more comfortable with a child who was merely born different.

You have a voice that can speak for the silenced, and the power to stand up to their abusers. Please use these to make compassion and justice your legacy. Work to ban conversion therapy from all U.S. territories. We’ve lost more than enough young people to senseless violence this past year.

Sincerely,

Karl J. Sherlock and Max E. Hughey, Jr.

El Cajon, California

karl.sherlock@gcccd.edu

Submitted in support of SB 270 to ban conversion therapy in the state of Hawaii.

Author: Shira Notes

Title: In Support of Human Attraction and Gender Identity from a Spiritual Perspective.

Human attraction is a complex topic that requires an in depth study on multiple levels of being. As you may know, Dr. Alfred Kinsey and colleagues developed a model in 1948 which underscored that our sexual attractions as human beings do not adhere to black and white constructs. Just as the basis of Gender Identity is not rooted only in the biological realm, similarly human sexuality does not adhere to any particular human law regarding male and female. Sexuality (herein referred to as Attraction Identity) and Gender Identity are intimately related and can be elucidated through an in-depth study of an individual's relationship to masculine and feminine energies in combination with the physical form. We often forget that we are spiritual beings having a human experience. We are made of complex energies and, as such, the mind, body, spirit and soul are all involved in the expression of our divine energies through the human form. Times are changing and so too must our hearts and minds as we become more aware of truths that have been hidden.

Have you ever heard of the concept of the body as hardware and the soul as software? This idea was first invented by Aristotle and later built upon by John Barrow and Frank Tipler. It states that the body is like the hardware of a computer and the soul is like the software, or program. What if our Gender Identity and Attraction Identity, or otherwise stated, who we are and who we are attracted to, are part of a hard-wired programming that we come into this life with? As human beings we are not just made up of the physical body, rather we also have a multi-layered and multi-dimensional energy body. Think of the human body as an outfit: Just as thoughts are outfits for the mind to try out, bodies are outfits for the heart, soul and spirit to try out. To think about it another way, the human being is comparable to a cassette tape. The

cassette is as the body and within the tape is hidden the information which codes for personal identity.

The debate and controversy around Attraction Identity and Gender Identity is rooted in confusion, dogma, misunderstanding and fear. You may have been brainwashed to believe that male and female exist in completely separate boxes, and that we are all here to unite male and female into a sacred union of marriage. However, this is an **external** viewpoint. The truth is that we are all made of masculine and feminine energies in varying degrees and we are now balancing them thus forming a sacred internal union resulting in gender neutrality. Just as the atoms of a molecule seek net neutrality, so too does our spiritual energy. In other words, Gender Identity and Attraction Identity are about the fact that we are NOT just our physical body; we are the spirit and soul behind the physical. By coming into this world with a physical body that does not match the spiritual energy signature, one sets the stage for major growth in gender equality and ultimately neutrality of being as we balance our masculine and feminine energies internally. The fact that we are in process of evolving in this way is undeniable to anyone whose eyes are opened.

Again, there is a strong possibility that the soul and spirit have an energy signature, or programming, which dictates and or contributes to both Gender Identity and Attraction Identity. In our world today, there is so much stigma and discrimination around both gender and sexuality that it is crucial for us to become more open minded and raise our awareness and understanding of these subjects in a more holistic way, encompassing mind, body, spirit and soul. Men who display feminine energy and women who display masculine energy are bullied and punished for no reason other than our own insecurities. What we have failed to recognize are the spiritual reasons for our human identity, not religious attitudes that cause incredible and irrevocable harm.

There is no such thing as “converting” someone from one identity to another. When a Jewish person converts to Christianity, it is a mere change in **belief** that allows for a change in lifestyle or practice. Nothing has happened to their spiritual identity. It goes to follow that one cannot convert someone from being heterosexual to homosexual or vice versa as we are born with a specific energy signature that determines this.

The only thing that can cause a change in someone's Gender Identity or Attraction Identity is removing the elements of fear, guilt and shame and allowing for absolution of the charges of criminality on the human soul.

Being able to open up about Identity is very scary for people of all ages given the dogmatic and condemning stance our fellow human brothers and sisters have taken on the topic. It is so important right now to let go of our human judgments towards one another and ourselves and increase the compassion we feel for the human race as a whole. We are here to evolve spiritually, a tremendous and painstaking task, which begs of our human smallness to reach new heights.

Sincerely,

Shira Notes

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 7:48:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell F. Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 7:52:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable chair and committee members:

It is horrifying to admit we need legislation to provide guidelines on professional behavior when dealing with young people.

Young people, young adults, are going through a turbulent time in their lives as they learn about their identity and their sexuality and their place in the world. For an adult to interfere in that sexual identity process in an unhealthy way - i.e. to say that one way is right or another way is right - is reprehensible. A child's sexuality is in flux during their adolescence. There are numerous studies on this. Many children may become confused when an adult they trust intervenes in their exploration.

There was a case in Australia where a young man had experienced feelings of identifying as female, and with his mother and doctor's approval, began a process of transitioning to female at fourteen. Some later, still in his teens, he now feels he is actually male and is in the process of transitioning back, after surgery and hormone therapy. He might actually be a gay male, not a transgender female. However, the adults in whose care he was entrusted, made decisions about life while he was still in the process of figuring it out.

Pass this bill. Leave our youth in peace to figure out their lives on their own, with support, not confusion.

Sincerely,

Dezireen Austin

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 9:46:09 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Kay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB270 as a good start in tackling the problem of the reprehensible practice of "conversion therapy." However, I don't believe that SB270 goes far enough.

Young adults ages 18-21 are some of the most vulnerable persons to fall victim to this abhorrent practice. We prohibit the sale of cigarettes, alcohol and guns to persons under 21 because they're some of the most at-risk persons to fall victim to the harmful effects of these products. I believe SB270 should be amended to include persons under the age of 21.

SB270 only restricts LICENSED teachers and persons from advertising or engaging in this practice. I believe the bill should be amended to prohibit ALL persons, including public or parochial school teachers and counselors, religion-based practitioners, and everyone else.

Think of it this way: what if someone was offering STRAIGHT to GAY conversion therapy. Would you find that to be reprehensible? If you do, then the opposite should apply as well.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 10:30:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Conversion therapy is hugely unethical. Not only has the American Psychological Association determined that “results of scientifically valid research indicate that it is unlikely that individuals will be able to reduce same-sex attractions or increase other-sex sexual attractions through [conversion therapy]” but it has also shown that children experiencing the parental rejection associated with such therapy are more than eight times as likely to commit suicide, nearly six times more likely to report high levels of depression, more than three times as likely to use drugs and more than three times as likely to be at high risk for HIV and other STDs. We MUST outlaw it in Hawai’i.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 11:11:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Ameen Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha honorable senators.

This bill is a clear violation of free speech and our first amendment rights for those of us who counsel. This is also a violation free speech and the personal liberties of those youth and parents who come with concerns or questions about sexual orientation.

Are there any cases of complaints where where counselors pushed their ideas upon questioning youth? This is an unnecessary bill and government overreach.

This bill clearly denies any young person who wants an honest conversation. Who are you the senators and the state to tell a young person that they cannot even seek a conversation about their sexual orientation?

this is the definition of bullying! Youth and parents have no choice. You are essentially telling young people and parents you have or rights, freedoms, or choices in this area of life.

You cannot nor must not violate the first amendment rights of our Hawaiian youth!

This is like saying, dear senator we are passing a law that when it comes to prolife or or pro choice you are banned from voting for pro choice. You must vote pro life because somebody else knows better than you and the decision has already been made. Would that be a violation of your freedom and liberty?

regardless of whether other states or municipalities have passed similar bills, these truths do not make them right nor does what everyone one else does justify what you senators do i our own state. Kill this bill. This bill kills diversity, choice and personal freedoms.

The LGBTQ groups always speak of tolerance, but clearly they don't mean that. This bill is nothing more that intolerance wrapped in a cloak of so called "protection" of our youth. Again this is not a protection but bullying of Hawaii's youth. Please withdraw this bill completely.

Sincerely, David Ameen Jr.

Mililani, Hawaii

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 11:41:30 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan B Allosada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In regard to sb270, it's with great desire to promote a safe environment of physical, physiological, and spiritual wellbeing for all ages it would be a grave danger to exclude 18 years of an individual's life from the beginning stages of growth to regulate what one should be brought up to live in a biblical, spiritual, and godly social network of learning of who am I. Here are some of my oppositions to sb270.

It will produce more confusion on one's sexual genetic DNA make up.

Am I a

Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual, or as God made man in His Image and Likeness.

To the truth seeker:

Who knows the truth, is there truth, maybe there is only truth as it applies only to you, then who

is right, not everyone in the whole world is right

It degrades the moral compass of absolute truth and disrupts the full scope of family values instructional learning responsibility of the home.

It further contributes to unhealthy compositional view of Man and Woman and the nature of each role.

It also deepens the shame associated by being confused which blocks to know what is right morally, psychologically, spiritually and promotes a false sense of security of one's individuality.

It could place a wedge on the practical spiritual biblical principles and practices of the Church.

Will the educational system change its whole curriculum to meet such demands stated on sb270, will this also include Bible schools, colleges, and basic bible study groups? This will continue to contribute a since of insecurity of social acceptance among the various districts, sectors, states, and any other community social programs. designed to help those who are above 18 to consider a spiritual biblical approach of life and livelihood to effectively be a productive member of society.

It will continue to encourage increased health risk because there would be no real place to get help to find a biblical spiritual meaning of the composition of one's individuality in connection to both physical, social, physiological, and spiritual wellbeing.

It will limit the authority of

The family structure and it meanings. The Church structures.

The Social structures. The governmental structure. Will this mean that the government restricts what to teach and preach; would this be a violation of separation of Church and States laws?

The judicial structure: will those indicated in sb270 be acquitted for crimes committed because of domestic violence, DUI, physical injury and or death because of one being confused to who he or she is and decide to take the law into their own hand to remedy such a dangerous poisonous toxic ideology which give no true support of truth. One could say I killed him because he called me gay, lesbian, bisexual and its not a healthy biblical life choice. Or one leaves a suicide note stating no one loves me because there is no hope to direct a person in a godly, righteous living to help bring one out of such confusion, social withdraw, depression, guilt, and other negative feeling and behaviors.

Are there helps other than social programs, church services, and personal development to supplement spiritual biblical principles to offer true sexual orientation to those who will be denied the truth for 18 years of the character building stages of their lives, its up to the individual to discover truth on their own because there is no truth about the real composition of Man and Woman. What is Truth, its not the passing of SB270. Its like telling all those who are identified as such (sb 270) to drink antifreeze, it odorless, tasteless, it's hardly detectable but over the course of time antifreeze can and will kill you no matter what. I don't want to tell them to drink antifreeze but rather consider biblical spiritual truth according to God' Absolute Truth. God will tell the truth about godly living, one's sexual orientation, spiritual standing with God and other biblical principles for living.

This I will do is Pray for godly direction for our leaders, individuals, and families to seek out the truth to guide in every area of their physical, psychological, and spiritual wellbeing.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:40:25 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ming Tanigawa-Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Conversion therapy is a sick practice that further damages the mental and emotional health of vulnerable minors and adults.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 6:46:25 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Brasher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB270 because a humane and civilized society does not condone the committing of psychological violence against people, especially vulnerable minors. All scientifically conducted research into sexual orientation leads to the conclusion that it is unalterable, whatever the complex origins may be in the first place. Intolerant ideology has led some to promote quackery masquerading as medical treatment to "make normal" people whose sexual orientation does not match that of the majority population. At most, such treatments effectively neuter people, eliminating sexual desire altogether. There is no replicated, clinical data showing someone with one sexual orientation has ever been "changed" to another. To allow people to advertise claims to the contrary is tantamount to allowing people to advertise services to neuter children. In Hawaii, in 2018, this would be abhorrent. Please support this bill, for the sake of our children, in accordance with our values as a humane and civilized society.

Mark Brasher, Ph.D

Kailua, Hawaii, 96734

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 10:44:57 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deren Ash	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of banning sexual orientation change therapy (conversion therapy) for minors. I think Wikipedia says it quite well, "There is virtually no reliable evidence that sexuality can be controlled or changed and medical bodies warn that conversion therapy practices are ineffective and potentially seriously harmful."

As stated in Section 1 of the bill, the American Psychological Association's task force concluded that conversion therapy is extremely damaging. Additionally, morals, ethics, and bigotry aside, it is simply ineffective. I'm sure you'll read and hear a lot of testimony today regarding how it is damaging.

I hope that you can all agree that conversion therapy is damaging, ineffective, bigoted, and morally reprehensible. So then the question becomes: Should we make it illegal? I think there is no doubt that the answer should be yes. The bill merely makes it illegal for a licensed counselor to conduct conversion therapy. What is the point of licensure, if not to prevent a professional from conducting treatments that are harmful and ineffective? I think that is the entire point of licensing professionals. With that in mind, how can conversion therapy possibly be legal for a licensed professional to conduct, when it has been proven conclusively to be harmful and ineffective?

If this bill has any shortcomings, it's that it is limited to minors. Why should a licensed professional be able to perform a treatment on anybody, adults or minors, where harm is the only possible outcome? Not to mention it is solely used to treat people who have nothing wrong with them. Just as it is now illegal for a licensed physician to conduct a lobotomy, it should also be illegal for a licensed counselor to carry out conversion therapy on any person.

Please pass this bill, and please do not dilute it or cripple it with amendments.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 11:07:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:26:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patti Lynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a licensed Marriage and Family therapy clinician and I support this bill. Any therapy that tries to change the sexual orientation of a minor is strictly prohibited by my license and my code of ethics as a professional and any legislation that supports banning conversion therapy should be passed immediately.

Patti Lynn LMFT

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:27:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Oshiro-Kauwe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I strongly support Senate Bill 270 to protect members of the LGBTQ community in our Aloha State of Hawaii. It is time to clearly accept and allow them to be who they are by banning psychologically damaging "conversion therapy".

Thank you, Ann Oshiro-Kauwe

STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 270 - RELATING TO MINORS

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

9:00 AM

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

To the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I respectfully request that you strongly support this bill banning conversion therapy for minors. Any remotely competent professional counselor knows that this practice is harmful, and it is already scorned by the professional community.

I earned a Master of Arts in Counseling in Guidance from Louisiana Tech University, which is located in northern Louisiana. In that part of Louisiana, the schools were only desegregated in 2012. In northern Louisiana, when someone says, "that n*gger" in conversation without any additional context, they are referring to Barack Obama. The privileged ethnic group there are equally as staunch in their hate toward the LGBT community as the Americans of Japanese Ancestry here in Hawaii.

Even despite that kind of hate, my professors were very clear in their condemnation of conversion therapy. The public around the university may have had other opinions, but when it came time to professional responsibility and evidence-based practices, they did their duty.

My hope is that you all will do the same.

Mahalo nui loa,

Justin Salisbury

1617 Kapiolani Blvd

Apt 1402

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 1:11:38 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Canales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support of SB270

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 1:29:05 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ernest david Kaimana carvalho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 270. I do not believe that anyone should be told who they are and who they can love. Being gay is not a choice of lifestyle, it is how one is born. I support the banning of Conversion Therapy for our youth.

To bully anyone because of how they identify is a crime against humanity. No one should walk in fear of who they are but instead they should be able to walk with their heads held up high.

Imagine how tough it is to be a gay adult, now imagine how this is multiplied in a child. No child should ever have to go through immersion. It is a cruel and hateful treatment which demonizes a child. It is cruel and unusual punishment at its worst.

This is no way to treat any of our children not just in Hawaii but throughout this world of ours. It is our responsibility too make sure that our children are protect at all times, and to be compassionate to what they are going though during their childhood years.

I ask the Senate to Vote for SB 270 and to show the world that we care about our children no matter the differences.

SB270 2018 re conversion therapy

I am writing today to offer my strong support for Senate Bill 270 based upon my firm belief that no child in Hawai'i should ever be made to feel there is something 'wrong' with them based on who they love or how they identify. It is important that we support children and support science.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 2:58:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maya Uemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Maya Uemoto. I am a Public Health doctoral student at UH Manoa, and the President of the Hui Ola Pono (a student group). **I strongly support SB270-relating to minors.**

Conversion therapy should be banned because it violates human rights. Many people that have experienced or participated in conversion therapy, or many forms thereof, have come forward to share their experiences of psychological abuse. This kind of mental harm is correlated to suicide. And it should be noted that LGBTQI individuals are also at higher risk for physical harm. This community needs to be protected and this passing this bill will support those efforts. Psychologists and mental health care providers are in a unique position help or harm and need to be kept accountable.

My hanai older brother is gay and I would be heartbroken if he had to endure something as soul-wounding as conversion therapy. Coming out is a hard and, at times, dangerous decision for a person to make. For all you know, someone in your family is dealing with this very issue. Please make Hawaii safer for our loved ones by passing this bill. Mahalo.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 4:12:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Ameen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Here are the reasons I chose opposition to SB270:

1) This bill is a violation of free speech and the personal liberties of those youth and parents who come with concerns or questions about sexual orientation. This bill clearly denies any young person who wants an honest conversation or dialogue about their sexual orientation.

2) We are against bullying, yet this bill bullies our youth by taking away their first amendment rights and their free speech in the area of sexual orientation. This bill is unconstitutional.

3) We stand for tolerance, which is what everyone seems to want. However, that is not true. LGBTQ groups are not inclusive and intolerant, which is what this bill proves. This bill is nothing more than denial of basic fundamental free speech rights, a bill of extreme intolerance wrapped in the 'cloak' or 'lie' of protection.

I urge our Honorable Senators to please withdraw this unconstitutional bill which kills our democracy.

Mahalo,

Sharon Ameen

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:09:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerome M Palompo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honourable Senators,

Please consider the reasons I oppose SB270:

1. This bill is a violation of free speech and the personal liberties of those youth and parents who come with concerns or questions about sexual orientation. This bill clearly denies any young person who wants an honest conversation or dialogue about their sexual orientation.
2. We are against bullying, yet this bill bullies our youth by taking away their first amendment rights and their free speech in the area of sexual orientation. This bill is unconstitutional.
3. We stand for tolerance, which is what everyone seems to want. However, that is not true. LGBTQ groups are not inclusive and intolerant, which is what this bill proves. This bill is nothing more than denial of basic fundamental free speech rights, a bill of extreme intolerance wrapped in the 'cloak' or 'lie' of protection.

I urge our Honorable Senators to please withdraw this unconstitutional bill which kills our democracy.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:42:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:50:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I writing to testify for my STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 270 - RELATING TO MINORS. Conversion therapy has no place in our society and especially not for minors. I believe it can emotionally scare a child for life and lead to self loathing and possible suicide.

Regards,

James R. Huntley

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 6:49:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pastor Rob Araki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 6:57:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1) This bill is a violation of free speech and the personal liberties of those youth and parents who come with concerns or questions about sexual orientation. This bill clearly denies any young person who wants an honest conversation or dialogue about their sexual orientation.

2) We are against bullying, yet this bill bullies our youth by taking away their first amendment rights and their free speech in the area of sexual orientation. This bill is unconstitutional.

3) We stand for tolerance, which is what everyone seems to want. However, that is not true. LGBTQ groups are not inclusive and intolerant, which is what this bill proves. This bill is nothing more than denial of basic fundamental free speech rights, a bill of extreme intolerance wrapped in the 'cloak' or 'lie' of protection.

I urge our Honorable Senators to please withdraw this unconstitutional bill which kills our democracy.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 6:59:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Baecker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

An analogy related to this topic and the need for outside assistance to bringing help to those with gender dysphoria:

If there was a child under the age 18 with anorexia, would you feel safe letting them live a life unapproached by a professional counselor? Would their present life, much less the long term affects of their actions in that state of mind, be one that brings joy and confidence? In the words of Paul McHugh profession of Psychiatry at John's Hopkins, *"Gender dysphoria belongs in the family of similarly disordered assumptions about the body, such as anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder. With that, you wouldn't go around telling those with anorexia they are fat would you?"*

By not addressing the issue with proper counseling, the mind of those under 18 with no guidance could easily become more harmful and traumatic than that of what said trauma would occur during the counseling process.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 7:13:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Hoffmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Here are the reasons I chose opposition to SB270:

1) This bill is a violation of free speech and the personal liberties of those youth and parents who come with concerns or questions about sexual orientation. This bill clearly denies any young person who wants an honest conversation or dialogue about their sexual orientation.

2) We are against bullying, yet this bill bullies our youth by taking away their first amendment rights and their free speech in the area of sexual orientation. This bill is unconstitutional.

3) We stand for tolerance, which is what everyone seems to want. However, that is not true. LGBTQ groups are not inclusive and intolerant, which is what this bill proves. This bill is nothing more than denial of basic fundamental free speech rights, a bill of extreme intolerance wrapped in the 'cloak' or 'lie' of protection.

I urge our Honorable Senators to please withdraw this unconstitutional bill which kills our democracy.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 9:14:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Steed	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1) This bill is a violation of free speech and the personal liberties of those youth and parents who come with concerns or questions about sexual orientation. This bill clearly denies any young person who wants an honest conversation or dialogue about their sexual orientation.

2) We are against bullying, yet this bill bullies our youth by taking away their first amendment rights and their free speech in the area of sexual orientation. This bill is unconstitutional.

3) We stand for tolerance, which is what everyone seems to want. However, that is not true. LGBTQ groups are not inclusive and intolerant, which is what this bill proves. This bill is nothing more than denial of basic fundamental free speech rights, a bill of extreme intolerance wrapped in the 'cloak' or 'lie' of protection.

I urge our Honorable Senators to please withdraw this unconstitutional bill which kills our democracy.

Adam Steed, Wahiawa, Hawaii

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 10:57:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pedro Haro	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 11:10:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Gelert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Conversion therapy to change sexual orientation is psychologically damaging. I know, because I tried it. Christians lie frequently about its effectiveness. It does not work.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 12:06:31 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 1:45:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauralee Baoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB 270. I believe that a minor considering therapy or receiving therapy in the state of Hawaii should not be stigmatized in anyway including any form of conversion therapy suggesting that his or her sexual orientation, sexual preference or sexual identity is wrong or should be changed. Conversion therapies are detrimental to the emotional and mental well-being of an individual. Questioning youth are at a place in their lives in which they are trying to make sense of who they are and who they want to be.

I identify as a bisexual female who struggled in coming to terms with my sexuality at one point in my life. I know without a doubt that if I was faced with conversion therapy in my questioning time of my life it would have led to increased anxiety, fear and confusion, reduced feelings of belonging, diminished self-esteem and loss of trust in the professionals (psychologists, therapists, and counselors) that I did visit at the time.

I was fortunate to have had professionals who supported me on my journey and who I am grateful did not use any form of conversion therapy on me. I worked through my emotions, my thoughts, my spirituality in my own way with support and today I am confident in who I am and am submitting this testimony in support of SB 270 and in support of all minors who are in that questioning time in their lives who may seek therapy in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Lauralee Baoy

P.O. Box 8670

Honolulu, HI 96830

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 3:49:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Jasper Jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

RELATING TO MINORS.

I have followed the Practitioner-Scholar model since 2010 for all research on best practices for interactions with clients. The seriousness of our commitment to research, advocacy and ethical treatment of our clients based on the analysis we conduct for all populations best interest is in question with this Bill. I do find it hard to support something for the state of Hawaii that uses findings of a research study conducted without the data for the state of Hawaii as a base for Hawaii State Senate action. According to the APA (2009),"The task force concluded that the population that undergoes, [Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE)], tends to have strongly conservative religious views that lead them to seek to change their sexual orientation (APA, 2009)." These facts not presently produced in the introduction section of this Act insinuation that members of the National Association of Social Workers, (NASW) in Hawaii and other ethical professions are engaging in behavior that favors a bias to conservative views and not the Practitioner-Scholar model. A practice based on the personal views of the provider which overlooks the views of the client/patient violates just about all of our Principles and NASW Code of Ethics. We believe in the research we conduct to base our services on for the populations and communities views we live in and work alongside. Also under the section titled Social And Political Action, Section 6.04c, "Social workers should act to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination against any person, group, or class on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, and mental or physical disability (Buila and NASW, 2010)." If our research and task forces are correct as stated at the start of the introduction, then why would we willingly violation of our code of ethics. According to the APA, (2009) "The task force conducted a systematic review of the peer-reviewed journal literature on Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE). The Taskforce concluded that efforts to change sexual

orientation are unlikely to be successful and involve some risk of harm, contrary to the claims of SOCE practitioners and advocates,(APA, 2009)." Conducting conservative based practice in our community that is mostly liberal would not be meeting our clients where they are which would also violate our principles and Code of Ethics, which our association already have the power to correct. While all mental health professionals are different, there is one thing we all have in common. We meet our clients/ patients where they are and work with them to achieve the best treatment plan possible for their needs. To bring this Bill to life means you have lost faith in our ethical commitment to research which is the bases for this agenda. We are trying to protect everyone regardless of the age or sexual orientation.

For these reasons, I do not support this Bill verbiage, However, I support the protection of our Kids as needed. I just don't feel this Bill is needed as written.

Respectfully,

Terry Jasper, Jr.

MS Clinical Psychology
Master of Social Work Practicum Student

American Psychological Association. (2009). Report of the task force on appropriate therapeutic responses to sexual orientation. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

American Psychological Association. Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation.(2009). Report of the American Psychological Association Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation.

Buila, S. (2010). The NASW Code of Ethics under attack: A manifestation of the culture war within the profession of social work. *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, 7(2), 1-8.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 6:49:33 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I support passage of SB270 for the reasons stated in the bill itself and as follows:

Medical, scientific, and government organizations in the United States and United Kingdom have expressed concern over conversion therapy practices as ineffectgive and consider it potentially seriously harmful. Various legal jurisdictions in Asia, Europe, and the Americas have passed laws against conversion therapy.

The **American Psychiatric Association (APA) opposes psychiatric treatment** "based upon the assumption that homosexuality *per se* is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that a patient should change his/her sexual homosexual orientation" and describes attempts to change sexual orientation by practitioners as unethical. United States Surgeon General David Satcher in 2001 issued a report stating that "there is no valid scientific evidence that sexual orientation can be changed".

An article in the Huffington Post in 2016 reported that, "Conversion therapy causes serious harms," NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter told The Huffington Post. "In the short-term, queer youth who go through conversion therapy are being cheated of the opportunity to gain self-confidence and self-esteem, to get support from family members and other adults, and to have normal adolescent developmental experiences around friendship, dating, and other social experiences. **In the long-term, the negative health consequences of being subjected to conversion therapy are extremely serious and can include substance abuse, dropping out of school, HIV infection, depression, and suicide attempts.**"

Please pass SB270.

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 7:55:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Gay conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy is a harmful means to somehow change ones sexual orientation or gender identity. The way gay conversion therapy is practiced does not have a standard; people in the past have used in-humane ways of attempting to change ones sexual orientation or gender identity which has been proven not to work. Psychology Today is only one of the many websites that highlights this harmful practice. As a gay man at the age of 17, I have met my handful of discrimination, conversion therapy is another way of discrimination by telling one who they are and what cannot be changed about them is wrong. Being LGBT+ is not a mental illness, we were born this way and should not be expected to act different.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-thing-feathers/201801/conversion-therapy-isnt-therapy-all>

SB-270

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 10:43:27 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmen Golay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 20, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in CR 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Re: S.B. 270 Relating to Minors

Testimony in Support of S.B. 270 with amendments

Aloha Senator Baker, Senator Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

I am submitting this testimony in support of prohibiting conversion therapy on minors that would include practices or treatments that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression. I am recommending amendments to this bill to seek prohibition of "conversion therapy" rather than "sexual orientation change efforts" because the term "sexual orientation change efforts" is the wrong term to use to also ban efforts to change gender identity and gender expression, and by trying to define this term as inclusive of efforts to change "gender identity, or gender expression" would only serve to confuse these terms for the public, providers, and in enforcement.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are two distinct aspects of human sexuality in our western framework, and conflating these two aspects under sexual orientation is incorrect and consistent with current definitions by health authorities, is not consistent with how Hawaii civil rights laws specifies these two terms as distinct, does not give appropriate and equal focus to transgender youth when gender identity change efforts are buried within the definition of sexual orientation change efforts, and does not recognize current efforts in states to simply ban "conversion therapy" and to define "conversion therapy" to specify the types of practices being banned giving each practice appropriate delineation.

I am including here the link to the model legislation that was developed by the National Center on Lesbian Rights, an organization that is in the forefront of consultation to states on conversion therapy legislation. This model legislation provides easily adaptable language to correct SB 270. (See "Sample Legislation to Protect Youth from Conversion Therapy", at http://www.nclrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SampleAntiConversionTherapyBill_2016-1.pdf. In this "Sample Legislation," you will also find more justification for prohibiting both sexual orientation and gender identity conversion therapy than is currently in SB 270 that could also be cited in SB 270. Also, another informative source on the definition of terms is found in the 2015 federal SAMHSA report, "Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth" (see Executive Summary and Glossary in the Appendix) at: <https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf>.

I am sorry for submitting this testimony late and hope you will consider the important points in this testimony that will help to accomplish the basic purpose of prohibiting conversion therapy to be practiced on minors.

With much appreciation,

Josephine (Jo) Chang

LGBTQ Consultant and Trainer, Parent Support (Da Moms), and Community Support