

HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 22, 2019
Rm. 016, 9:00 a.m.

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 429

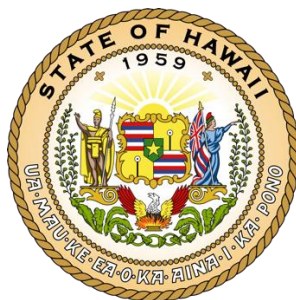
The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 429, which would provide for the gender category self-identification options of “female, male, or non-binary” for driver’s licenses and state identification cards.

Expanding gender categories on government identification will help to avoid discrimination against transgender and non-binary individuals applying for a driver’s license or state identification card.

HCRC is cognizant that identification document must conform the REAL ID Act, and urges any modifications that will allow compliance with federal law, and allow individuals to self-identify their gender category.

The HCRC supports S.B No. 429.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Prepared for the Senate Committee on Judiciary

In Support of SB429
Friday, February 22, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Wakai and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports** SB429, which would require a third option of gender identification for driver's license and state identification card applicants. Hawai‘i has the largest percentage of transgender individuals in the United States. Binary gender and sex markers on state driver’s licenses cause difficulty and invasive questioning in everyday transactions for this community. Indeed, sex and gender markers **increase the likelihood of discrimination** for transgender and gender non-conforming people when seeking employment, registering to vote, applying for insurance, interacting with law enforcement, opening a bank account, renting an apartment, and the list goes on.

Sex and gender are distinct concepts although the state uses the terms inconsistently, and often interchangeably which exacerbates mythological binaries. For example, the federal REAL ID Act requires that state driver’s licenses mark “the person’s gender.” At present, Hawai‘i’s regular driver’s license is technically non-compliant with the REAL ID Act because lists “sex.” Sex implies chromosomes and particular body parts relevant to reproduction. Gender is the story that a society tells about sex differences. These stories are currently “steeped in stereotypes of female inferiority,” and so deeply ingrained that we experience them as if they are unchangeable and biological.¹ Gender (expectations and stereotypes) is at the heart of sexism and the subordinate status of women and all people who exhibit a feminine rather than typically masculine appearance or demeanor. In most states, non-binary genders are not legally recognized.

¹ Fogg Davis, H., Beyond Trans Does Gender Matter?

SB429 would align our identification documents with the reality that gender is a mutable, performative characteristic that is personally changeable at any time. All people may present themselves at any time in a way that associates them with the “wrong” sex or gender, and can be misgendered by state administrators such as law enforcement.

The Commission is cognizant that total elimination of sex and gender from this specific license category would run afoul of the federal REAL ID Act. Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass this important measure with the following specific amendments:

1. Page 3, Line 14
 - "Gender category" includes the ~~options~~ **designations of F, M, or X** ~~female, male, or non-binary.~~
2. Page 4, Line 20
 - The department of transportation shall not require documentation for an applicant's selection of ~~birth~~ gender category or ~~an applicant's~~ request for an amendment to a gender category other than the applicant's self-certification of their ~~chosen~~ gender category, **regardless of the sex or gender designation displayed on any other documentation submitted**; ~~provided that the department shall not be prohibited from requiring documentation that may incidentally show an applicant's birth gender category if such documentation is necessary to establish that the applicant is legally entitled to a license.~~

Mahalo,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



February 16, 2019

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

Hearing: Friday, February 22, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 429** – RELATING TO GENDER IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 429 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 429 excludes gender or sex markers from limited purpose driver's licenses and limited purpose provisional driver's licenses.

SB 568 is one of the priorities for the LGBT Caucus and is a continuation of the work we have done to help ensure all are treated equally and fairly. The idea of gender binary is a fallacy and this bill will help correct this misconception. Gender identity is a spectrum and people fall somewhere along it, from female to agender to male. This needs to be reflected on those do not identify as strictly female or male on their provisional driver's licenses.

For the State of Hawaii to require everyone to pick either female or male on their driver's license or state ID is requiring them to lie. By passing this bill you will be making Hawaii more accepting of our fellow 'ohana members that do not adhere to the gender binary. To understand more about our non-binary 'ohana we encourage you to read ["Understanding Non-Binary People" from the National Center for Transgender Equality.](#)

Currently 3 other states (California, Minnesota & Oregon) and the District of Columbia have a variation of this law. The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii asks that you pass SB 429 to help make Hawaii a more inclusive state for all.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

National Center for Transgender Equality
FAQ: GENDER-NEUTRAL IDS What is a gender-neutral ID?

A gender-neutral ID displays an alternate marker that is not an “M” (male) or “F” (female) to fill the sex or gender field of the ID. The gender-neutral marker is typically an “X” marker which stands for “Undisclosed” or “Other.”

Why are gender-neutral IDs important?

Many people have a gender identity that is not male or female and may use terms like “non-binary” to describe their gender identity. A gender-neutral ID allows them to display a more accurate gender marker on their ID. A gender-neutral ID also allows people of any gender to have increased privacy around gender on their state ID.

Do I have to identify as non-binary to get a gender-neutral ID?

No. People of any gender may choose not to disclose their gender on their ID by opting for a gender-neutral marker.

If I am a transgender man or transgender woman, do I have to get a gender-neutral ID?

No. The gender-neutral option “X” is in addition to the options of “M” or “F.” A transgender woman can still change the gender marker on her ID to “F” and a transgender man can still have “M” on his ID.

Do I need a provider to certify my request for a gender-neutral ID?

No. Current states with gender-neutral options allow all applicants to determine the gender marker that is most appropriate for them and no longer require documentation from a medical or mental health provider. This allows people who may have limited access to medical providers to get appropriate ID, and also allows people who seek to have an “X” gender marker for privacy reasons to do so.

What if my gender-neutral ID does not match the gender marker on my other IDs and documents?

If you have different gender markers listed on various IDs or records, it may cause confusion or raise eyebrows when interacting with officials or applying for services. However, legally speaking, it is not a problem to have records and IDs with different gender markers, and officials should still be able to verify your identity.

Can I use my gender-neutral ID to travel and go through TSA or airport security?

TSA does not yet have an official policy on how they process IDs with gender neutral markers, despite the fact that various other countries issue IDs with “X” designations. Airlines are required to collect name and gender information and submit it to TSA before each flight, and airlines currently only have M or F options. It is ideal to bring an ID to fly that has a gender marker that matches the gender you submitted to the airline. However, if you don't have an ID with a gender marker that matches what you submitted to the airline you can likely still get through security, though you may receive additional scrutiny or questioning.

Will my ID be compliant with federal and international laws?

Yes. The REAL ID Act requires states to list a gender on licenses, but the Department of Homeland Security explicitly states that they “leave the determination of gender up to the States [...]” An X gender marker is consistent with the practice of the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO), an agency of the United Nations, which uses an internationally-recognized passport format that allows for M, F, or X gender markers.

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 6:38:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Testifying for Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:



As in previous testimony we support this measure to give a measure of dignity to Transgendered people who need this form of ID for so many financial and legal transactions.

Mahalo, Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

Committee Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai

Hearing: Wednesday, February 22, 2019

9am in Conference Rm 016

I am writing to testify **in strong support** of SB 429. I am the Policy Coordinator for GLSEN-Hawaii, an educator, an advocate for youth, and a member and advocate of many minority and marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ+ community. I believe in this bill because I believe it offers a path to true inclusion, but also because I believe that adding a third gender marker option can go a long way in educating the public on, and in continuing to expand equality for the LGBTQ+ community.

To date, cities, states, and countries around the world are moving towards more inclusion with gender markers. Hospitals are dropping gender/sex markers from baby's hospital wrist bands. States are adding gender/sex marker alternatives. Colorado most recently became the 5th state to allow 'X' gender marker on driver's licenses. Our own nation's capital, Washington DC, was actually the first place anywhere in the United States to allow 'X' gender marker on driver's licenses and ID's.

In Hawaii, we have a unique opportunity to keep inclusion at the fore-front. As you probably know, Hawaii has the highest number of individuals who identify as transgender per capita. According to the 2018 Hawaii Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report, roughly 1% of the adult population here, and between 3-5% of Hawaii public high school student population identifies as transgender, gender non-conforming, etc. This bill would also benefit those who identify as intersex, and those who just may not want to have to deal with selecting a gender at all. Allowing individuals to select an affirming marker on an item that they must carry with them at all times, travel with, show for purchases, etc., adds to the health, safety, and all-around wellness of the individual. According to a 2015 survey conducted by NCTE (National Center for Transgender Equality), thirty-two percent said that they had been "verbally harassed, denied benefits or service, asked to leave, or were assaulted when they showed ID with name &/or gender marker that didn't match", and two-thirds of those surveyed "didn't have their preferred gender marker on identification documents".

I know this may be difficult for many of you to understand. Just imagine being misgendered and people continuously using the wrong pronouns for you, and on top of that, you were unable to obtain documentation that affirmed you for who you are. Our diverse gender identity and gender expressive community members should not have the worries of needing to explain a gender/sex marker that may not wholly affirm who they are. While gender marker "X" does not encompass/affirm all of the many gender identities that exist, it is an impactful step in the right direction towards true inclusion.

I'm **in strong support** of SB 429, and I hope you will stand with me, the community, and all impacted. Please stand in **strong support** of SB 429 also.

Mahalo for your time.

Causha A. Spellman

Pronouns: They, Them, Their
Policy Coordinator – GLSEN-HI
(925)565-4611

caushasp@hawaii.edu



SB-429

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:18:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:46:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



Hawai'i

LATE

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 22, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 16
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 429, Relating to Gender Identification

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in support of S.B. 429, which would offer a third gender designation option on state driver's licenses and state identification cards. This change will provide accurate identification documents to affirm individuals' gender identity and help prevent discrimination and harassment of transgender and non-binary people.

According to the Williams Institute, Hawai'i has the highest percentage of its population identifying as transgender in the nation. In 2016, the National Center for Transgender Equality released its 2nd U.S. Transgender Survey, which included the experiences of almost 28,000 respondents.¹ Only 11% of respondents reported that *all* of their IDs had the name and gender they preferred, and 68% reported that *none* of their IDs matched the name and gender that they preferred. We applaud the legislature for recognizing that this current state of affairs is unacceptable and introducing and moving this legislation to remedy it.

Hawaii's current driver's licenses and state identification cards do not recognize non-binary people, who self-identify as neither male nor female, both male and female, or something else. Approximately 31% of respondents to the U.S. Transgender Survey identified as non-binary. For these individuals, neither an "M" nor an "F" gender marker accurately reflects their gender identity. Offering a third option will provide a more accurate gender designation for these individuals, as well as a privacy option for those who do not wish to disclose their gender.

¹ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluHawai'i.org
www.acluHawai'i.org

The ACLU of Hawai‘i supports this measure, but respectfully requests the following amendment:

1. Page 3, Line 14
 - “Gender category” includes the ~~options~~ **designations** of **F, M, or X** ~~female, male, or non-binary.”~~
2. Page 4, Line 20
 - The department of transportation shall not require documentation for an applicant's selection of ~~birth~~ gender category or an applicant's request for an amendment to a gender category other than the applicant's self-certification of their ~~chosen~~ gender category, **regardless of the sex or gender category displayed on any other documentation submitted.** ~~provided that the department shall not be prohibited from requiring documentation that may incidentally show an applicant's birth gender category if such documentation is necessary to establish that the applicant is legally entitled to a license~~

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai‘i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai‘i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving Hawai‘i for 50 years.

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/16/2019 9:23:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB429.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Board member, Rainbow Family 808

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 5:34:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Wistinghausen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Patricia Wistinghausen, I am a voter from Kaua'i and a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i - LGBTQ Caucus. I am writing in support of SB429 to allow for the addition of a third gender category 'non-binary' to be an option when applying for driver's licenses and state I.D.s in Hawai'i.

The section and language of the bill below, summarizes exactly why we should update and expand our gender categories:

"Mandatory binary classification does not accommodate the wide range of natural biological variations or gender expressions. Additionally, it is overly burdensome for transgender individuals to obtain a new sex or gender on a driver's license.

The purpose of this Act is to allow transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals to avoid invasive questioning and discriminatory treatment by expanding gender options when applying for a driver's license and state identification card."

I urge you to please vote in support of SB429.

Mahalo for your time,

Patricia

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 9:20:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Gender is biological. That being said, accurate data only should be listed on HDL.

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 5:41:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:31:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB429

Codifying that a driver may self-declare their own gender category without documentation is similar to allowing someone to self-declare their own weight, hair color, eye color, or height. (Could you imagine if we made people stand on a scale at the DMV?)

Transgender drivers should not be put through irrelevant verifications just to be identified as a capable driver. Allowing a driver to self-identify their own gender category, including the option of "nonbinary", may provide the most accurate description for identification purposes.

Because of the potentially oppressive social constructs and rigid cultural mores around gender categories such as "male" & "female", selecting "non-binary" may be the most appropriate for some drivers to self-identify as.

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:48:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andres Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 6:02:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:21:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherise Braxton-Brooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Driver's licenses do not need sex markers on them, they did not have them on there over five years ago. These designations do nothing to help our transgender population. They already face discrimination and ridicule for trying to be who they are. Don't force them to struggle to feel comfortable with themselves, society is so determined to force them into a box, when there is no legitimate reason to do so. Allowing a gender category option that reflects who they are shows ALOHA. Hawaii cares about its people and should not feel the need to follow western ideas of sex identification! Help stop discrimination against our Ohana! Please vote to allow gender neutral markers! I am a proud mother of an LGBTQ youth who loves Hawaii and wants all our people to feel Aloha! Thank you!

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 1:17:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katya Katano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student at the William S. Richardson school of law, and I strongly support SB429.

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 1:41:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:17:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Kamakawiwoole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the honorable members of the Hawai'i State Legislature Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Wakai:

This testimony is submitted in strong support of SB429, which would add a third option "X" to the Hawai'i driver's license gender options. Such a little letter, but what it means to people is significant.

When you type "discrimination against queer individuals," Google finds over 10 million search results. Replace "discrimination" with "violence" and there are over 20 million results available. I would hope that no testimony needs to beg the question of if individuals who do not fit the traditional gender binary are disadvantaged in current society. Fortunately, we are transforming - albeit slowly, in a non-linear fashion - to become a society in which individuals do not need to conform to a "light switch" male or female gender expression/identity. However, that slow progress is wrought with challenges, especially regarding discrimination and violence. A 2015 report from the National Center for Transgender Equality presented findings from a survey that indicated over 30% of respondents who presented an ID that had a name or gender that did not match their presentation had suffered discrimination or violence (e.g. verbally harassed, denied entry/services, asked to leave, or assaulted). Passing SB429, in my opinion, would be a concrete step in showing people in Hawai'i and beyond that the community here is concerned with safety of our residents, the progression of society towards inclusivity and understanding gender expression as a fluid spectrum, and the right for everyone to feel comfortable presenting identification.

Thank you for your time.

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:26:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support SB429, which would add an "X" as a gender-neutral marker to Hawai'i driver's licenses.

SB429 is important because it will protect Hawai'i's transgender community, the largest of any state. Some people do not neatly fit into the categories of "male" or "female." An alternate gender marker of X (a gender other than male or female, undesignated) allows for more accuracy for people who are not represented by "M" or "F," and gives a privacy option for anyone who does not want to disclose their gender.

Thank for your support of this bill!

LATE

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 12:45:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Meade	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please joining Oregon, Maine, Minnesota, and California in removing this avenue of state sponsored discrimination.

LATE

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 12:59:40 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Kaono	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB 429.

Kanoa M. Lee
leekanoa@hawaii.edu

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Chair: Karl Rhoads
Vice chair: Glenn Wakai
Friday, February 22, 2019
9:00 AM
Room 016



STRONG SUPPORT for SB429

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

My name is Kanoa Lee and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am in strong support for SB429 requiring a license to include a person's full legal name, date of birth, gender category, residence address, and license of identification number while also including a third option of gender identification for driver's license and state identification card applicants.

On Oahu, from personal observation and experience, only giving people the option to select "male" and "female" regardless of it being on an identification card application or any processes that require gender identification, can cause back lash in the broad community.

As a social worker, much of what I do includes giving people resources and helping them navigate their own path. I have had to help clients fill out forms and I have watched them feel uncomfortable with that particular selection solely because there is a limit of choices and those choices don't include how they identify.

I am in strong support for SB429 requiring a license to include a person's full legal name, date of birth, gender category, residence address, and license of identification number while also including a third option of gender identification for driver's license and state identification card applicants.

Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-429

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 2:16:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This violates the Federal Real ID Act that states:

A Real ID-compliant form of identification requires the following pieces of data:

- Full legal name
- Signature
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Unique identifying number
- Principal residence address
- Front-facing photograph of the applicant

Committee on Transportation

Chair Lorraine Inouye

Vice-Chair Breene Harimoto

Committee on Judiciary

Chair Karl Rhoads

Vice-Chair Glenn Waikai



Logan Paracuelles

23 Lauone Loop

Wahiawa, HI 96786

Thursday, February 21, 2019

STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 429, relating to gender identification:

From a young age, I always knew that I was different than the other kids. I was bullied for not being like the other young boys who enjoyed playing with action figures or playing sports. The reinforcement of gender norms stem from the moment you are born and for non-binary people, like myself, these socially constructed norms only cause more harm. This systematic issue negatively impacts our ability to thrive economically, socially, and physically, which may have an impact on our ability to access healthcare, employment, or housing.

During my undergraduate education, I obtained a Bachelor in Social Work degree and I am currently working towards completing a Master in Social Work degree. With my experiences of interning at various county hospitals, I have witnessed the barriers to healthcare for transgender patients, such as insurance navigation, being misgendering, and a lack of transgender health knowledge by healthcare professionals.

This bill will help promote the dignity and safety of transgender and non-binary people, allowing the dignity for self-identification of their gender identity. The addition of non-binary within the gender categories will not only validate non-binary folks, but will help to eliminate health disparities and discrimination by accurately acknowledging transgender and nonbinary people.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Logan Paracuelles

February 21, 2019

LATE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Wakai,

I am a teacher at Wai`anae Intermediate School, and I'm proud to support SB429 because it will help to my students feel more comfortable expressing their gender. As they come of age to get their driver's license it is important for them to have the choice to identify their gender beyond the male and female binary.

I teach many LGBTQ+ students who will be impacted by this legislation of adding the "x" gender marker. It allows my students to represent themselves without feeling pressure from others if how they look doesn't match the male or female box.

In my classroom we have a period dedicated to social emotional learning, which focuses on allowing students to explore their own identities. Students are challenged to think about the power of words, and to gain an understanding of the diversity of experiences that people have. They learn how to respect and talk about difference in healthy ways.

SB429 would broaden the possible ways my students could identify their gender without completely getting rid of male and female gender markers. Other states such as California and New York have already created these options for transgender and gender nonconforming people on their driver's licenses. I challenge you to think about what kinds of messages we are sending Hawaii's next generations if we do not offer this choice.

I support SB429 because it will help show my students they matter, not just in the classroom, but on the road, in the airport, and in society as a whole. The youth are our future, and we have a responsibility to set an example for them that people of all backgrounds and identities deserve to be respected. I support SB429.

Mahalo,



Alika Masei