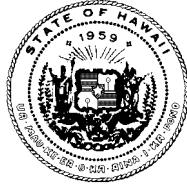


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 24, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2037 HD 2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION**

Hearing: February 26, 2020, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill, provides comments, and suggests an amendment.

PURPOSE: Establishes the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2059. (HD2)

DHS supports and recognizes the commitment and efforts of the different LGBT and LGBTQ advocacy groups, especially around the issues of bullying prevention and equity. The proposal is modeled after the statutes that establish the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, which has long been successful in its promotion and advocacy to improve the status of women in Hawaii.

DHS comments that an appropriation for the executive director as well as an operational budget is necessary for the proposed Commission to function and implement its statutory mission. The Legislature should also know that office space within DHS is also lacking so an appropriation may need to include funds to develop an office and to obtain necessary IT and other office systems.

Also, DHS was informed that there the number of voting members listed in (b)(2) should be clarified as the stated number of eight does not match the seven members described or the definition of quorum (d), a majority of the seven appointed members of the commission. DHS suggests amending (b)(2) as follows:

(2) ~~Eight~~ ~~Seven~~ voting members who shall be appointed by the governor in accordance with section 26-34; provided that of these ~~eight~~ ~~seven~~ members:

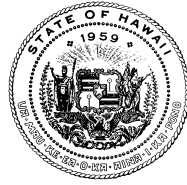
(A) One member shall be from the county of Hawaii;

(B) One member shall be from the county of Kauai;

(C) One member shall be from the county of Maui; and

(D) Four members shall be from the city and county of Honolulu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2037 HD1 HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 26, 2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

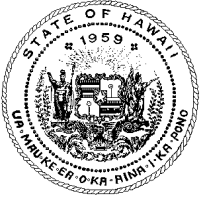
2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB2037 HD2
3 which is to address disparate treatment, including bullying, for lesbian, gay, bisexual,
4 transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ) residents.

5 Epidemiological data for this community describes higher rates of adverse conditions such as
6 being victims of targeted violence, behavioral health issues, and communicable disease. These
7 conditions may be exacerbated by social and economic pressure such as employment
8 discrimination or lack of family support.

9 Although the measure requires further refinement for it to be practical, examples like the Hawaii
10 State Commission on the Status of Women are useful models from which to draw. DOH looks
11 forward to the ongoing comprehensive public policy and public administration conversations for
12 and with LGBTQ communities.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

14



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

February 26, 2020
Rm. 308, 12:00 p.m.

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 2037, H.D. 2

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 (on the basis of disability). The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

H.B. No. 2037, H.D. 2, amends the HRS to add a new chapter to establish the Hawai‘i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission..

The HCRC supports H.B. No. 2037, H.D. 2.

The purpose of this chapter to provide for a statewide program, on a permanent and continuing basis, on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus people in Hawai‘i.

The civil rights laws that the HCRC enforces prohibit discrimination based on sex, including gender identity or expression, and sexual orientation in employment (HRS chapter 378, part I), public accommodations (HRS chapter 489), and housing (HRS chapter 515). Indeed, the HCRC’s statutory purpose reads: “**§368-1 Purpose and intent.** The legislature finds and declares that the practice of discrimination because of race, color, religion, age, *sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation*, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or

disability in employment, housing, public accommodations, or access to services receiving state financial assistance is against public policy...”

Noting that the new HRS chapter proposed in the bill is modeled after HRS chapter 367 which established the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women, the HCRC supports H.B. No. 2037, H.D. 2.



HB2037 HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER,
PLUS COMMISSION

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka 'Oihana 'Imi Kālā

Pepeluali 26, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Lumi 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on HB2037 HD2, which would create a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission. This measure would provide a meaningful and permanent way to ensure that our LGBTQ+ community members—including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, gender non-conforming, gender non-binary, and any other sexual and gender minorities—unique issues and needs are documented, considered, and valued in policymaking and programmatic facilitation.

Gender and sexual orientation minorities have deep roots in traditional Hawaiian society, and remain a significant but often unacknowledged part of Hawai'i's community today. Hawaiian culture has a rich history of gender diversity and acceptance of those who would now be considered LGBTQ+. In pre-colonial Hawaiian culture and society, aikāne and mähū were even revered and maintained special roles in society and in certain cultural practices.¹

Unfortunately, our community today does not meaningfully acknowledge and accommodate our LGBTQ+ communities, resulting in various forms of systemic and invidious discrimination not reflective of Hawai'i's cultural history and traditional values. Currently, over 1 in 10 public high school students in the state identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer (LGBQ) (including youth who are "questioning" their sexuality), with 22% of these youth being Native Hawaiian.² Over 3% of adults in Hawai'i also identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB), with approximately 18% of the adult LGB population being Native Hawaiian.³ Moreover, Hawai'i ranks first in the nation with the highest proportion of its population composed of transgender adults,⁴ and three percent of Hawai'i's high-school-aged youth identify as transgender, with 25% of these youth being Native Hawaiian.⁵ Unfortunately, Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ youth suffer from

¹ See, e.g., NOENOE SILVA, *ALOHA BETRAYED: NATIVE HAWAIIAN RESISTANCE TO AMERICAN COLONIALISM* (2004); Lilikalā Kame'eleihiwa, *Le'ale'a o nā Kūpuna: Traditional Hawaiian Sexuality*, Ke Ola Mamo Conference (1999); Keith Bettinger, *Historically Speaking: A quick look at homosexuality and gender roles in pre-contact Hawai'i*, HONOLULU WEEKLY, Jun. 20-26, 2007.

² HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, *HAWAII SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY HEALTH REPORT 2017 14* (2017), available at <https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf>. This DOH report focused primarily on LGBQ youth, and its study published in the following year, 2018 focused specifically on transgender youth.

³ *Id.* at 26.

⁴ WILLIAMS INSTITUTE, *HOW MANY ADULTS IDENTIFY AS TRANSGENDER IN THE UNITED STATES?* 3 (2016).

⁵ HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, *HAWAII SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY HEALTH REPORT 2018: A FOCUS ON TRANSGENDER YOUTH*, 24 (2018) available at <https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport2018.pdf>.

poor access to healthcare and health outcomes,⁶ high incidence of substance abuse,⁷ high incidence of sexual and emotional abuse by a partner,⁸ bullying in schools and poor educational outcomes,⁹ and poor mental health with high rates of self-harm and suicidal ideation.¹⁰ Despite a notable presence in Hawai'i, nearly half of all transgender youth live in unstable housing situations compared to only 6 percent of cisgender youth.¹¹ And Hawai'i's LGB adults report similarly dismal experiences:¹² Hawai'i's LGB adults, especially women, experience health disparities, particularly in rates of chronic diseases and conditions;¹³ poor mental health;¹⁴ high rates of physical and sexual violence;¹⁵ and higher incidence of risky behavior.¹⁶ Although more than half of LGB adults have received higher education, they also earn much less than heterosexual adults overall.¹⁷

Despite being recognized and included in positions of reverence in the Hawaiian Kingdom and in pre-contact Hawai'i, LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i face significant adversities today. Their exclusion from consideration or recognition in government policies and programs may not only perpetuate such adversities, but may also limit our society from realizing and benefiting from its members' true and full potential. By establishing a body to improve the State's policymaking and programming with respect to our LGBTQ+ community, this measure would take an important first step toward better supporting this segment of our community and improving their lives, and thereby benefitting our society overall.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2037 HD2. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

⁶ *Supra* note 2 at 15-16.

⁷ *Id.* at 18.

⁸ *Id.* at 20.

⁹ *Id.* at 20 & 25.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 22.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² This DOH study limited its adult aggregated data to LGB adults, indicating that the adult transgender population and sample size was so small as to be insufficient to support reporting the data collected by the Department of Health. *Supra* note 5, at 23.

¹³ *Supra* note 2 at 30.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 36.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 35.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 34.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 26.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 2037, HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair CULLEN, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments in support of HB 2037, HD2, which would establish the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (“Commission”).

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy - one that works for everyone and not just the special, monied interests.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community is at an elevated risk of societal inequality and disadvantage through bullying and ostracism. Understanding how to address and remedy this inequality and disadvantage will lead to a more successful democratic society and effective democratic government, which is the intent of HB 2037, HD2. The Commission will reduce barriers that have made it more difficult for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus community to participate in our democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 2037, HD2. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



February 24, 2020

House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 2037 HD 2**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 2037 House Draft 2 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. HB 2037 HD 1 establishes the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission and the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission Trust Fund.

It has been 7 years since we passed Marriage Equality here in the Aloha State, while that was a huge milestone for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community we have a lot more work to do to ensure Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community has full equality at every level government and society. We also need to remain vigilant to ensure there is no back sliding for all of the advancements we have made to the lofty goal of equality.

Even with all of the advances we have made here are just some of the difficulties facing Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community:

- LGBTQIA+ suicide rates are 3 to 4 times than that of their straight and/or cisgender peers
- 85% of LGBTQIA+ students have experienced verbal harassment
- When the State of Hawaii's Department of Health did do a study for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community they only included lesbians, gays and bisexuals
- There is no federal law protecting employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression in the United States.
- Homophobia and transphobia are the most publicly accepted forms of bigotry, harassment and discrimination
- 80% of the transgender population who were employed experienced harassment or mistreatment on the job or took steps to avoid it
- When it comes to statistics about Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community we have to rely on studies done on the continent or Europe
- When the State of Hawaii's Department of Health did do a study for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community they only included lesbians, gays and bisexuals

The LGBT Caucus understands that even when the Commission is established the Commission alone will not be able to solve all of these problems facing Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community. But just imagine having a Commission, with commissioners from every county, working with other community stakeholders and the ex-officio members representing the Department of Education,

LGBT Caucus Testimony is Strong Support of House Bill 2037 HD 2

University of Hawai'i, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Human Services, Department of Human Resources Development, and Department of Health can do to start to address these and other difficulties facing Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community.

For all these reasons the LGBT Caucus humbly asks that you support HB 2037 HD 2 as it is the right thing to do.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair



**Where LGBTQIA+ Rights Meet Labor the Movement
A constituency group of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO**

February 24, 2020

House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.

RE: SUPPORT for House Bill 2037 House Draft 2

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of Pride At Work which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

With all the advances that the LGBTQIA+ community has made there is still a lot of work left to be done. Especially with the assault on LGBTQIA+ rights that we are seeing at the Federal level.

This commission will help to keep the gains we have made while working to ensure everyone in Hawaii's diverse LGBTQIA+ community are treated equally and fairly from the playground to the boardroom and every place in-between.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i humbly asks that you support HB 2037 HD 2.

In solidarity,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i



IATSE Mixed Local 665
HAWAII'S TECHNICIANS
for
FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE AND PROJECTION
Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Date: February 24, 2020

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: HB 2037 HD2: Relating to the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
Plus Commission

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 3:00PM
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

Aloha, Chairs Lee and Takumi, Vice Chairs San Buenaventura and Ichiyama
and Committee Members –

Mahalo for hearing this bill. We **SUPPORT** the amendment to PART VI, SECTION 9(c) of HB 2037, making it a Class C Felony to intentionally create and distribute an image or video of a known person over a nude image of an unknown person without their knowledge or consent, otherwise known as deepfake pornography.

The sophistication of Computer-Generated Imagery (CGI) makes it nearly impossible to tell if an image or video is real or fake. There are thousands of these damaging images on the Internet, and many people's lives and careers have been maliciously harmed by these non-consensual, fake images.

This privacy protection is a basic human right to be free from abuse and harassment and will punish and deter those who intentionally use deepfake pornography to harm innocent people.

Respectfully,


Irish Barber
Business Representative

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 3:09:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tuiaana Scanlan	IATSE Local 665	Support	No

Comments:

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of Pride At Work which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. They are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

With all the advances that the LGBTQIA+ community has made there is still a lot of work left to be done. Especially with the assault on LGBTQIA+ rights that we are seeing at the Federal level.

This commission will help to keep the gains they have made while working to ensure everyone in Hawaii’s diverse LGBTQIA+ community are treated equally and fairly from the playground to the boardroom and every place in-between.

IATSE Local 665 humbly asks that you support HB 2037 HD 2.

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:10:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Clark	Maui Equality Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

We, on Maui are excited to hear that this bill is under consideration. While we fully support any legislation that will help the state of Hawaii to better understand and thusly meet the needs of its LGBTQ citizens, we must object to that as it is currently written representation of the LGBTQ community allows Oahu to maintain 4 seats while all outer island have only one. This distinction reveals a major disconnection in understanding. Simply because Oahu Island has a larger general population, it is percieved to have a greater LGBTQ population. So large infact that the bill requires 4 representitives? This bill does not in any way reveal WHY Oahu would infact need more representation than outer islands; other than perhaps a false and delusional theory that Oahu is more important. We on the outer Islands do not understand why infact we would be penalized with only a single seat? Is it in fact to limit our representation and possible funding at a later date? We would ask that the number of individuals representing Oahu be reduced and made equal to that of the representatives on an of the other Islands.

Sincerely,

Valerie Clark

President, Maui Equality Coalition

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:29:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:47:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Hawaiian culture has a rich history of gender diversity and acceptance of those who would now be considered lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming. As noted in the OHA testimony, “ In pre-colonial Hawaiian culture and society, aikā• ne and mā• hā« were even revered and maintained special roles in society and in certain cultural practices. “ Today with the changing population of Hawaii, these same individuals are facing discriminatory actions. A commission dedicated to addressing these discriminatory practices would provide a meaningful way to ensure that our LGBTQ+ community members’ unique issues and needs are addressed. Strongly support passage of this measure.

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:32:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mericia Palma Elmore	SAG-AFTRA	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:48:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 1:27:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 1:39:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a community member and a public health professional, I strongly support HB 2037 HD2, which will create the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission.

The Hawaii State Department Health was the first health department in the country to publish both a sexual and gender minority health report (2017) and a follow-up report which focused on transgender youth (2018). These reports and the resulting Sexual and Gender Minority Work Group have highlighted the need for a statewide comprehensive strategy for our LGBTQ+ community to address related health disparities and social inequities in Hawaii, which include higher rates of substance use, bullying, violence, and suicidality among our LGBTQ+ schoolkids.

This bill will help to ensure health and equity for these communities across the lifespan, especially among youth.

Thanks for your consideration,

Thaddeus Pham

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:25:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:44:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB2037. This LGBTQ+ Commission is long overdue. Discrimination and misunderstandings still occur within this community. The Commission will help all islands deal with LGBTQ+ issues in a respectful and understanding manner. It is another great way to make equality really viable.

Please pass HB2037. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

Secretary/Board Member, Pride at Work

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 4:54:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, ViceChair Cullen, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Jen Jenkins, and I write in SUPPORT of HB2037 HD2, which would create a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Plus (“LGBTQ+”) Commission. The creation of an LGBTQ+ commission would provide Hawai’i with an agency that serves and recognizes some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Respectfully,

Jen Jenkins

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 7:42:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Bradshaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:20:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The sexual and gender minority health report (2017) and a follow-up report which focused on transgender youth (2018) demonstrated a need for a statewide comprehensive strategy for our LGBTQ+ community to address related health disparities and social inequities in Hawaii. This Commission is the natural and necessary response to supporting our keiki, their ohana, and all the people of Hawaii.

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:41:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



1100 15th St NW, 4th Floor
c/o WeWork
Washington, DC 20005
202-391-0834

February 26th, 2020 - 12:00pm

Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support For HB 2037

To The Committee on Finance,

The Trevor Project writes to support HB 2037, which creates the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission and the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission General Fund.

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning) young people. We work to save young lives by providing support through free and confidential suicide prevention and crisis intervention programs available by our 24/7 phone lifeline, chat, and text services; TrevorSpace, the world's largest safe space social networking site for LGBTQ youth; and through our innovative education, research, and advocacy programs.

Evidence demonstrates that LGBTQ people are disproportionately affected by disparities in areas of policy and government affairs and are often underserved by currently available public support. LGBTQ youth present a unique set of needs that should be considered for research, planning, and implementation of public policy. According to The Trevor Project's 2019 National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health, 39% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months, with more than half of transgender and non-binary youth having seriously considered attempting suicide. 71% of LGBTQ youth in our study reported discrimination due to either their sexual orientation or gender identity. Further, 76% of LGBTQ youth felt that the recent political climate impacted their mental health or sense of self. The establishment of the LGBTQ+ Commission and Trust Fund will address these unique needs and send a powerful message to Hawaii's youth that their government is taking them into account.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support HB 2037. Should you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance regarding this matter, please contact me at 202-768-4413 or Sam.Brinton@TheTrevorProject.org.

Sincerely,

Sam Brinton
Head of Advocacy and Government Affairs
The Trevor Project

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:08:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Rainbow Family 808 STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2037 HD2 because it's the Just thing to do.

Please pass this bill in a swift manner.

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, Jr.

Founding President

Social Worker and Advocate

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 7:15:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:30:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Tomita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:32:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eduardo Hernandez	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Luke, Chair; Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair; and members of the committee:

HB 2037 which would establish the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission is an important piece of legislation and merits your approval. While there have been significant strides for civil rights protection and equality in Hawaii, more needs to be done. The impacts of marginalization due to homophobia and transphobia are pervasive, costly and damaging. For neighbor island residents, in rural communities there is even more masking of the health disparities experienced by sexual and gender minorities and this especially impacts young people and our Kupuna.

Currently Washington and Pennsylvania have similar statewide commissions and many more smaller jurisdictions around the nation, do as well. There are no national discrimination protections for LGBTQ people particularly in the areas of jobs and housing. And, approximately 70 nations criminalize people who identify as LGBTQ+ leading to situations where people can lose their job, their family, their liberty, even their life, just for loving who they love.

Hawaii can and should do more to document instances of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We can do more to protect young people from an epidemic of bullying. We can do more to understand the health disparities that affect people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, to create more effective public health policy.

This bill has support from public health advocates, civil rights experts, health care providers and allies across the state. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:36:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Finance Committee;

I write in favor of this bill to create a statewide LGBTQ commission in order to address and advocate for the special issues, needs and concern that this segment of our community badly needs. It is estimated that as much as 1 out of 8 of adolescent youth (ages 13 to 18) belong in this population group. Issues of bullying, consent for health services for LGBT&Q minors, and identity choices are just some that needs to be addressed.

There may be a concern in terms of funding such an independent commission. Should that be the case, I would recommend that should such a commission be established, that it be combined with the Commission on the Status of Women because of the expertise, advocacy role and similar mission that that existing commission currently perform. Perhaps an expansion of the support staff will help the current director to absorb the additional duties and responsibilities of the commission..

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 3:32:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lei Kihoi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of this Bill. It is imperative that a Commission be established that specifically addresses discrimination against those who prefer relationships with those of the sex, or those who prefer to establish a sexual identity other than their birth identity. As an attorney, I was privileged to work on Hawaii's First Major Same-Sex Marriage Case: Baehr v. Lewin. We need to continue to move forward on the rights of those that have been severely neglected in our history. Aloha, Lei Kihoi, Esq.

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

February 26, 2020
12:00 pm

House Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

Re: HB2037 HD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and members of the House Committee on Finance:

We **SUPPORT** the intent of HB2037 HD2. This bill, if enacted, will establish the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission and appropriates funds. We support the rights of our LGBTQ+ community and understand that such a commission will help to better the enforcement of those rights. We recall that “an injury to one, is an injury to all” and so we stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community.

Sincerely,

T. George Paris
Managing Director

TGP: MP

LATE

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 10:50:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaimes T Steele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I will not censor myself to comfort your idiocy. I tell myself that every day in the morning then go to school and deal with the insults and other slander I must so I may get through the school day. To be honest I am tired of it. None of my teachers know how to help either, so day in and day out I have to deal with being called a fag or people throwing rude gestures at me. If it's a day where I don't get attacked I get prepared to play therapist cause I know someone else was busy picking on one of my friends. I am sick and tired of people using gay as an insult or being told there's something wrong with liking men. I do not care; if you think it's wrong. I do not care; if you're mad that I'm happy with myself and you're not. I will not censor myself to comfort your idiocy and I never will. I joined the Gsa (Gay Straight Alliance) to have a safe space and I've found it, then we started talking about the bill. I thought it was a perfect opportunity to get extra support on making people more aware of what LGBTQ+ members go through daily in their lives. We could help teach the teachers how to help a student if they're being bullied for who they are. I support HB2037.

LATE

HB-2037-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 11:12:39 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: