

‘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**

Support for HB1096 HD1
March 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Members,

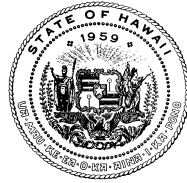
The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HB1096 HD1, which amends the Uniform Parentage Act to allow non-gestational partners to voluntarily establish parentage of a child during the period immediately prior to or following the birth of the child. The measure also requires the State to recognize parentage determinations from other states and territories.

The Commission fights for equality for transgender and queer women. This measure urgently needed to implement marriage equality. HB1096 is important to protect parent-child relationships in the LGBTQ community. At present, heterosexual, cisgender couples are unfairly privileged because are given the assumption that the child born is a legal child of both parents.

Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass HB1096 HD1.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1096 HD1
RELATING TO PARENTAGE.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 2, 2021

Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the creation of a working
2 group to explore and recommend policy to assure parity for non-heteronormative parents. As
3 originally drafted, this measure unintentionally imperiled the concept of “paternity” which has
4 decades of federal and state program implications, such as child support enforcement, at stake.

5 DOH believes there should be a similarly efficient and low-cost process as voluntary
6 establishment of paternity for families who do not currently qualify and will work with
7 stakeholders to this end.

8 The department requests amendments that authorizes other stakeholders to contribute at the
9 request of the Director of Health. The purpose of this is to assure participants have the public
10 policy, legal, and programmatic background necessary to propose sound legislation.

11 **Offered Amendments:**

12

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 4:53:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HB 1096, HD1. Thank you!

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:25:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports HB 1096.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



TO: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

FROM: AF3IRM Hawai'i

RE: HB 1096- Relating to Parentage
Position: SUPPORT

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i **SUPPORTS this measure.** We urge the committee to pass this measure out of committee.

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed.

Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. **This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners.** As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child’s valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents’ identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: HB 1096- Relating to Parentage
Position: SUPPORT

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. The Hawai'i Women's Coalition **SUPPORTS this measure.** We urge the committee to pass this measure out of committee.

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed, particularly for trans women, lesbians and femme identified LGBTQ+ people.

Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. **This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners.** We know that As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child’s valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents’ identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.



Hawai'i

Committee: Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 12:00 p.m.
Place: Via videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of H.B. 1096, H.D.1, Relating to Parentage

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of H.B. 1096, H.D. 1**, which establishes a task force to recommend changes to Hawai'i's parentage laws, which reflect outdated, cisheteronormative concepts of families, parenthood, and parental rights. Hawai'i law does not allow non-birthing partners to voluntarily establish parenthood at the time of their child's birth unless they identify as male. This means that while a male-identified, non-birthing parent who is not married to their birthing partner is able to voluntarily establish parentage and be included on their child's birth certificate, a non-birthing, non-male-identified parent is forced to obtain costly postpartum adoption decrees for legal recognition as their child's valid parent. Recognition of parentage on a child's birth certificate carries implications for school enrollment, authority to make health care decisions, and the ability to cross international borders. This insulting two-tiered system results in what is essentially a queer parent penalty, raises serious constitutional concerns, and is in direct conflict with Hawai'i's various nondiscrimination laws.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai'i urges the Committee to support this bill.

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 over 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
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www.acluhawaii.org

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 4:41:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vera Zambonelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Gender identity should not be a barrier for a non-binary or female partner to establish parentage, and our current law allows only male partners of birthing people the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. This same right is **not** afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners, penalizing them.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. The birth certificate is a critical document and LGBTQ+ parents should not be treated as second-class citizens under our laws.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 7:07:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Alani Bagcal and I strongly support this measure.

HB 1096 amends the antiquated, unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQ+ people, and opens the voluntary establishment of parenthood to all partners of birthing persons, regardless of their gender identity or biological contribution to the child. The bill also adopts gender neutral language, such as “parentage” in place of “paternity,” in recognition of the validity of all birthing people and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support,

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:52:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee Members:

As a concerned community citizen and public health professional, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT for HB1096** which would allow for ALL parents (including non-binary, trans, and queer parents) who do not identify as male to finally be able to establish their parental rights in a manner that honors their gender identity as a parent without calling their bodies into question.

It has been well established that the health of children is strongly influenced by having stable, loving, and dedicated parents, regardless of sexuality and/or gender status (<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/4/e1374>). To ensure the health of our local children and the future workforce of Hawai'i, I urge you to pass measure HB1096.

With aloha,

Thaddeus Pham

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:28:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Way past time to update. This should be suggested as a thing to do every 5 years.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:46:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1096 HD1. We certainly need to update our laws to a more inclusive and current framework.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:53:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meleana Shim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1096.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:57:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cu Ri Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:39:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 1096 HD 1 Relating to Parentage.

Patricia L. Bilyk RN MPH, MSN

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:54:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Pontillas Davé	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 1096, HD 1 - Relating to Parentage

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Jasmine Pontillas Davé and I strongly SUPPORT this measure. I urge the committee to pass this measure out of committee.

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed. Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners. As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child’s valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents’ identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai‘i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.

Jasmine Pontillas Davé, Esq.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:02:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. **I respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure out of committee.**

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed. Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners. As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child’s valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents’ identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai’i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:30:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 1096 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Sarah Michal Hamid and I strongly support this measure and provide the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

HB 1096 amends the unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQ+ people, and opens the voluntary establishment of parenthood to all partners of birthing persons, regardless of their gender identity or biological contribution to the child. The bill also adopts gender neutral language, such as "parentage" in place of "paternity," in recognition of the validity of all birthing people and families.

As a lesbian woman, I know the intimate realities of discrimination that LGBTQ+ people face in Hawai'i, and knowing that our families are not even regarded as valid increases the daily anxieties I have as a queer person. I fear that when I choose to start a family I will have to pay thousands of dollars and undergo an extremely emotional process, all while healing from childbirth. Our families and communities deserve better, and this bill provides a tangible way to support and affirm that LGBTQ+ parents are valid and should be treated as such.

Gender identity should not be a barrier for a non-binary or female partner to establish parentage. Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners. As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the "queer parent penalty" - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child's valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Voluntarily establishing legal parentage allows for both parents to

appear on their child's birth certificate. For families seeking to enroll children in school, establish authority to make health care decisions, or cross national borders, the birth certificate is a critical document. The birth certificate is the document used as evidence of parental rights, so establishing parenthood on birth certificates is important. Absent this correction, LGBTQ+ parents will continue to face barriers in parenting their children and be treated as second-class citizens under our laws.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michal Hamid

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:33:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Ashley Galacgac and I strongly support HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. Hawai'i has many peoples whose cultures recognize the sacredness and beauty of LGBTQ+ people.

As a queer woman of the LGBTQ+ community, this bill directly impacts my life. My partner and I dream to raise our future children here in Hawai'i, in the place where we were both born and raised and where our families are. We are doing our due diligence with our family planning and anticipate tremendous hardship as a queer couple. It has been disheartening to listen to countless stories of friends and colleagues in our community jump through legal and financial hoops. This is on top of the struggle to even conceive children and then undergo a difficult process to gain full parental rights with adoption. These friends and colleagues serve as an inspiration for me to not only learn from the hardships of LGBTQ+ couples, but also fight against the systemic injustice they suffered so this injustice stops.

HB 1096 codifies love, acceptance, and equal treatment of loving couples, like my partner and me. It ensures that discrimination will be addressed across the board in Hawai'i. In some cases, partners are allowed to be on the birth certificate, while others are not. Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. **Female, non-binary, and queer partners are excluded from this same right.** As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the "queer parent penalty" as LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child's valid parent. Gender identity should not be a barrier for a non-binary or female partner to establish parentage.

HB 1096 amends the unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQ+ people, and opens the voluntary establishment of parenthood to all partners of birthing persons, regardless of their gender identity or biological contribution to the child. The bill also adopts gender-neutral language, such as "parentage" in place of "paternity," in recognition of the validity of all birthing people and families.

HB 1096 would update the law to give the legal rights, recognition, and protection LGBTQ+ families also deserve. Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Voluntarily establishing legal parentage allows for both parents to appear on their child's birth certificate. For families seeking to enroll children in school, establish authority to make health care decisions, or cross national borders, the birth certificate is a critical document. The birth certificate is the document used as evidence of parental rights, so establishing parenthood on birth certificates is important. Without this correction, LGBTQ+ parents will continue to face barriers in parenting their children and be treated as second-class citizens under the law.

I urge you to pass this measure and affirm the rights of LGBTQ+ parents. Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD 1.

Sincerely,

Ashley Galacgac

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:35:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaleigh DeSimone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 1096, HD 1 - Relating to Parentage

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Kaleigh DeSimone and I SUPPORT this measure. I urge the committee to pass this measure out of committee.

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed. Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners. As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child’s valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents’ identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.

Kaleigh DeSimone

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:37:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makanalani Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 1096, HD 1 - Relating to Parentage

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Makanalani Gomes and I SUPPORT this measure. I urge the committee to pass this measure out of committee.

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed. Under our current law, only male partners of birthing people are afforded the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. This same right is not afforded to female, non-binary, and queer partners. As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child’s valid parent.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents’ identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai’i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.

Mahalo nui,

Makanalani Gomes

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:39:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monique DeSimone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Uniform Parentage Act as it currently stands discriminates against queer families and our ability to establish parental rights under law without unjust burden. I strongly urge you to pass this measure, and end the unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQ+ people and our paths to parenthood.

As a lesbian parent who recently welcomed my son, Teddy, last June, I speak firsthand to the hardship of pursuing a family as an LGBTQ+ couple. From locating a donor that ethnically represented our family and provided uncontested legal protection against paternity disputes, to finding medical providers who did not actively discriminate against us, on top of the costs of actual fertility procedures, there were countless hurdles we faced along the path to building our family, both emotionally and financially.

As the non-gestational parent to Teddy, there were many hours spent consulting with a lawyer regarding the security of my parental rights in various scenarios, as the non-biological parent. I am no less his mother than the woman that birthed him. Yet every step of the way, I am questioned; because I'm not a cis-hetero man. LGBTQ+ people already face tremendous obstacles on this parenthood journey. Forcing us to additionally spend upwards of \$20,000 to adopt our own children is discriminatory and cruel.

The state is failing their LGBTQ+ families. It is shameful that this law is outdated and that the State has allowed for this discrimination to continue to happen. Biology, gender identity, and marriage should not be determinants of who is granted the opportunity of parenthood under law, nor are they markers of what makes a family legitimate. Queer people know better than anyone that family goes beyond biology. As you know, legal parenthood has a tremendous impact on a parent's ability to care for their child. It allows them to enroll in school, make medical decisions, and legally travel with the child. If male partners have the ability to volunteer parenthood, queer partners should be able to do the same. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and I strongly hope that the State can go beyond empty promises of LGBTQ+ equality by enacting HB1096.

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 11:22:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Balgos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1096, HD 1- Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Alexandra Balgos, and I am an advocate for LGBTQ rights in Hawai'i. I strongly urge the committee to pass this measure.

A measure to resolve the discrimination against LGBTQ+ families is urgently needed. The law as it is written only allows male partners of birthing people the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. **This right is withheld from female, non-binary, and queer partners.** As a result of this restriction, many LGBTQ+ parents are barred from establishing parentage and are subject to the "queer parent penalty" - LGBTQ+ parents are forced to undergo extreme financial and emotional burdens to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child's valid parent.

As a non-binary person with a non-binary partner, I do not anticipate having to navigating the lengthy, expensive process that would ensue under the current law just for my partner to be recognized as the rightful parent to our child. The law as it is currently written sends a message to the LGBTQ community that we are unfit for parenthood.

Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Resolving the barriers non-male parents face in establishing parentage will also correct the legal discrimination currently leveled against children because of their parents' identities, a factor that children do not have control over. Every child deserves the ability to have their parents, who love them, to be recognized as their family and as valid parents.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on HB 1096, HD1.

Alexandra Balgos

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 11:29:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Ritti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in support of HB 1096. Currently, LGBTQ+ parents face discriminatory barriers to voluntarily establishing parentage of a child. Cisgender heterosexual men are not questioned when establishing voluntary parentage of a child, while parents who identify as LGBTQ+ must face huge financial burdens to establish parentage. This is unfair treatment plain and simple and the law needs to be changed to include all families.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Catherine Ritti

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:13:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1096 HD1 as a long overdue step towards strengthening families and ending discriminatory procedures to establishing parentage in Hawaii.

Thank you,

HB-1096-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:13:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB1096 to convene a task force to consider necessary amendments to current

HRS statutes regarding the definition of parentage.

Mahalo! for allowing me to provide testimony

Barbara J. Service for the opportunity to testify..