

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2136, HD 1

TO: Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, & Finance Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: April 4, 2022 (2:30 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2136, HD 1, which would add gender identity or expression to those categories where counsel may not exclude a person from a jury. This is another important step forward in strengthening our state's non-discrimination laws.

Gender fluidity was accepted and valued in pre-contact Native Hawaiian culture. Māhū served as spiritual and cultural leaders. After contact with Western colonial powers local trans persons faced a long history of maltreatment by dominant structures of power, including law enforcement, the larger criminal legal system, and the crude politics that sustained such abuse. Today, trans persons face ongoing legal, social, and medical stigma. Many experience minority stress that has a negative impact on their health and well-being, including disproportionate rates of mental health conditions and use of alcohol and other drugs. Trans persons also face disproportionate rates of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. HHRC's transgender services program, Kua'ana Project, provides needed support to members of O'ahu's trans community. Services provided include access to gender-affirming care, name changes, housing and nutritional support, social services, and peer support. Kua'ana Project is trans-led and trans-staffed and takes a leading role in convening the community for Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31) and Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 12:41:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2136 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

SB-2136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 9:19:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports SB2136. Please pass this bill. Thanks.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

SB-2136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 1:56:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camaron Miyamoto	LGBT Student Services, UH Manoa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2136 RELATING TO JURY SERVICE. I believe that a jury of one's peers must allow for those who include members of our transgender, māhū and non-binary communities. It is discriminatory and unfair to prohibit jurors from service on the basis of sex or gender identity. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. My testimony represents my over 20 years experience as a professional working for the needs and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals and does not represent the official opinion of the UNiversity of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

SB-2136-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:44:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB2136 jury duty

I am in support of SB2136 which prohibits discrimination in jury selection based on gender identity or expression. This is a no-brainer. Someone's looks should not be a factor in jury selection.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

District 4, Precinct 1

Keaau, HI 96749