

# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

## Re: S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1

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.

S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1, amends the HRS to add a new chapter to establish the Hawai‘i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission, and trust fund. The bill also establishes county committees, appointed by the county mayors, on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

### **The HCRC supports S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1.**

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...”

This bill would also require each county to have a committee, appointed by its mayor, that submits a plan and proposal affecting the status of the LGBTQ+ community in the county. The size of the county committees is not addressed.

**The HCRC supports S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1.**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2670, S.D. 1

**February 24, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER,  
QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2670, S.D. 1, adds a new chapter to the HRS to: 1) establish the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (Commission) within the Department of Human Services (DHS); 2) set parameters for the Commission's membership and appointments; 3) authorize the appointment of an Executive Director to be exempt from civil service; 4) outline the powers and duties of the Commission; 5) require each county to establish a county committee on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs (County Committee); and 6) set membership guidelines and duties for the County Committees. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS in FY 23 for the Commission.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that

states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

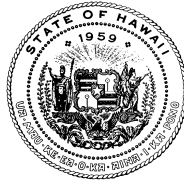
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**LATE**

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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2670 SD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,  
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION**

THE HONORABLE SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Room Number: 211 & Videoconference

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) offers comments to support the  
2 intent of this measure as long as it does not impact the Governor's Executive Budget.

3 **Department Testimony:** This bill which would establish a Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
4 transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission; permit each county mayor to appoint a county  
5 committee on the status of LGBTQ+ affairs; and makes an appropriation funding the  
6 commission activities. This bill is necessary to provide equity for the LGBTQ+ community,  
7 many of whom are vulnerable and whose needs are unknown, overlooked, or discriminated  
8 against. The “Hawai’i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report” (2017  
9 [https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep](https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf)  
10 [ort.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf) and 2018  
11 [https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep](https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport2018.pdf)  
12 [ort2018.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport2018.pdf)) presented data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, showing that Hawaii  
13 LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by suicidality, depression, anxiety and other  
14 deleterious health outcomes due to discrimination, harassment and violence as a result of  
15 homophobia and transphobia. Advancing equity for LGBTQ+ people through the formation of  
16 the LGBTQ+ commission is an important step in continuing to gather information and  
17 decreasing stigmatization, oppression, and other minority stressors that LGBTQ+ people in our  
18 communities face. Similar commissions in other states (e.g., Washington and Massachusetts)  
19 have shown success in addressing the needs of this community.

1 To summarize, SB2670 SD1 creates a commission of state and county employees devoted to  
2 addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+ community, thereby increasing equality and decreasing  
3 stigma, which can lead to improvements in LGBTQ+ mental health.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health (DOH)

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**STONEWALL  
CAUCUS**

FORMED IN 2001



THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE  
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
OF HAWAII**

February 20, 2022

Senate's Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, February 24, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 1 on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii (formerly LGBT Caucus), Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. SB 2670 will establish the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission and the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission trust fund. Requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

It has been 8 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 Stonewall 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+

## Stonewall Caucus Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 2670 SD 1

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, 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 Hawai'i's LGBTQIA+ community.

For all these reasons the Stonewall Caucus humbly asks that you support SB 2670 as it is the right thing to do.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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





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

February 24, 2022

Senate's Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street,  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, February 24, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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.

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 SB 2670 SD 1.

In solidarity,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:06:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Camaron Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee of Ways and Means,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. My name is Camaron Miyamoto and I am the Director of the LGBTQ+ Center at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. This testimony does not represent the official opinion of the university but is based on my professional opinion of working over 20 years with LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai‘i. It is an honor to submit testimony in strong support of SB2670 SD1 relating to the establishment of the Hawai‘i Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission. I firmly believe that this is a necessary step to safeguard the health and well-being on our young people in Hawai‘i and a proactive step that should be taken in each county.

Department of Health Data demonstrates that LGBTQ+ youth are highly marginalized in Hawai‘i society and experience alarming rates of suicidal ideation, family neglect, issues of homelessness, and negative health and well-being outcomes because of on-going systemic marginalization, harassment and discrimination. This is fully documented the 2017 and 2018 reports on Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender Minority Youth, published by the Hawai‘i State Department of Health.

It is my professional opinion that a coordinated effort at the state level is needed and overdue to implement proactive strategies to lessen the deleterious impacts of stigma and marginalization of our LGBTQ+ youth in Hawai‘i. I welcome the establishment of the Hawai‘i LGBTQ+ Commission as a first step to demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of all young people in Hawai‘i and a proactive effort towards safeguarding our LGBTQ+ communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2670 SD1.

Sincerely,

Camaron Miyamoto, Director LGBTQ+ Center, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:34:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB2670. This commission is long overdue. Please pass.

Mike Golojuch, Secretary/Board Members, Rainbow Family 808

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, February 24, 2022  
10:00 AM  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB 2670, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**

Chair DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments in support of SB 2670, SD1, which (1) establishes the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission and (2) requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative 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 effect of SB 2670, SD1. 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 SB 2670, SD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

# North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective

22 February 2022

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

As an emerging grassroots network striving to bring people together across Oahu's north and windward shores to ensure that the region that we call home is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of **LGBTQ+** individuals, the North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective offers its **Strong Support** of **SB2670 SD1**.

As the text of the bill makes clear, there is a need to establish a body to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community, identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

As a region without legislative allies or advocates, and in which the needs, concerns, and voices of the LGBTQ+ community are still often overlooked, ignored, and rendered invisible, the establishment of a Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission would offer hope and help toward a better present and future for us and for all in the islands.

Wherever and whenever decisions are being made, nothing about us without us.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on these concerns,

*Joe Wilson, Liz Rago, Michelle Johnson Blimes,  
Hao Le, Bethany Berry-Weiss, Kunane Dreier, Torrey Lock*

**Organizing Committee**  
nskdcollective@zohomail.com

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2670 SD1 with comments

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, & Members – Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
FROM: Trisha Kajimura  
Deputy Director - Community  
DATE: February 24, 2022 at 10:00 AM

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports with comments**, SB 2670 SD1, which establishes the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission, county committees and makes an appropriation.

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 who are adversely impacted by poverty, housing instability, discrimination, healthcare inequity and other social determinants of health. HHRC's roots are in the LGBTQ+ community with a transgender health program, an LGBTQ+-specific smoking cessation program and more than 500 participants of other programs who identify as LGBTQ+. One of our biggest lessons learned over the past 30 years is the importance of hiring and engaging with people who identify as LGBTQ+ to ensure that all decisions, programs and policies are inclusive and reflective of the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.

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.

We respectfully suggest that SB 2670 SD1 be amended to further specify commission composition:

- One member should represent the Hawaii Sexual and Gender Minority Work Group
- Commission members should reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community by including individuals from different LGBTQ+ identities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:15:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ashley Galacgac	Testifying for AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD1, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health show poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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OFFICERS	DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS	
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	Jan Lubin	Bill South	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Keola Akana	John Miller	Zahava Zaidoff	Honolulu
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura		Hawaii 96823
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Stephen O'Harrow		

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February 23, 2022

TO: Chairs Dela Cruz and Members of the WAM Committees

RE: SB 2670 SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

Support for hearing on February 24

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

We support this bill as it would establish a commission for the LGBTQ+ community. We agree with the preface of the bill that the State needs to improve its interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community. This bill would identify the short—and long-range needs of its members and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 1:12:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a Comunist and Satanist Act that need sto be removed from Hawaii!!!

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 1:48:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of SB2670 SD1.

Mahalo,

Eileen McKee

Kihei

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 8:17:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2670 SD1, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State. This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities, which was only exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:42:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and WAM Committee Members,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2670 SD1 which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:36:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joey Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,



I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill. While the LGBTQ community has seen rapid progress toward greater justice and equality, especially in Hawai‘i, there is still a long way to go. For instance, Hawai‘i has enacted strong anti-discrimination protections that explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity, however, even this protection does not take the affirmative steps necessary to combat stigmatization and the normativity of the current binary social construction of gender.

Having an LGBTQ commission that could focus on the ways our State can continue to make progress for our community would be a significant step forward. I respectfully ask the committees to pass this bill and keep it moving through the legislative process.

Mahalo,  
Joey Brown

Kailua, HI

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:08:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Amanda Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD1, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amanda Martinez

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:23:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jessica Redford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD1, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica Redford

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:39:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rozlyn Calderon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Moriwaki and fellow committee members,

I am writing in support of SB2670. The LGBTQIA+ community in Hawai'i would benefit greatly with the creation of this commission.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rozlyn Calderon



**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:48:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jacob Lee, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Dr. Jacob Lee, a psychiatric fellow practicing at Kapi'olani Medical Center, Queens Medical Center and Tripler Medical, but testifying on behalf of myself. As a healthcare provider with a focus on gender and sexual minorities, I've seen the countless ways this population is disadvantaged in terms of physical and mental health outcomes. As the struggles of LGB persons are relatively well-known, I'll focus on a quick primer for transgender mental health in Hawai'i, to emphasize the importance of this commission.

Hawaii ranks highest in the nation for transgender prevalence with approximately 8,450 transgender individuals, representing 0.8% of adults, according to a 2016 study by the Williams Institute, a think tank at the UCLA School of Law. Hawaii's own Dept of Health found half of Hawaii's transgender youth usually sleep in a motel, emergency housing, a friend's place, car, park or campground, making up nearly 40% of youth homeless. A quarter of the transgender kids in Hawai'ian public high schools have tried injecting illegal drugs at least once, compared to just 1 percent of their non-transgender peers. For issues as varied as bullying to cigarette use, Hawai'ian youth and adult trans persons are at increased risk.

The Hawai'ian gender nonconforming, Māhū, and other sexual minority communities stand as some of the state's most vulnerable health populations. I commend Senator Lee and Misalucha's action in attempting to establish this commission, and I urge you to vote 'yes'.

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:24:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lorenzo Perillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD1, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

LP

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:15:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH  
1177 Queen St. #2707 Honolulu, HI, 96814  
February 22, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature Re: Testimony in Support of SB2670 SD1

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i State Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist on O'ahu writing in support of this measure to establish the HI LGBTQ+ Commission.

As the state with the highest number of gender diverse individuals, this will ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration in protecting the health and welfare of all of your constituents.

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA

**SB-2670-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:27:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2670 SD1, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maddalynn Seseapasara