

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2670, RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Holly T. Shikada, Attorney General, or
Erin N. Lau, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Rhoads and Moriwaki and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments.

The bill proposes to establish the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission within the Department of Human Services, and to establish county committees on LGBTQ+ affairs. In addition, the bill creates a trust fund to support the work of the LGBTQ+ Commission.

The trust fund that is described starting on page 8, line 9, to page 11, line 2, appears to be a special fund, rather than a trust fund. A trust fund is defined in section 37-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as “a fund in which designated persons or classes of persons have a vested beneficial interest or equitable ownership, or which was created or established by a gift, grant, contribution, devise or bequest that limits the use of the fund to designated objects or purposes.” The proposed wording of the bill does not appear to meet the requirements of a trust fund, because there is no person or class of person identified with a “vested beneficial interest or equitable ownership” in the moneys in the fund, and the fund may more appropriately be designated a special fund.

Special funds are defined in section 37-62, HRS, as “funds which are dedicated or set aside by law for a specified object or purpose, but excluding revolving funds and trust funds.” If the bill is amended so that this fund will be a special fund, additional amendments may be needed to set out the requirements of a special fund. (See, e.g., page 52 of the Hawaii Legislative Drafting Manual, 10th edition, 2012.) Those

amendments may include setting out what sources of funds are to be earmarked for the fund, describing what is to happen to unexpended and unencumbered moneys in the fund at the close of each fiscal year, establishing any minimum or maximum limits and what happens when the special fund balance is outside those limits, as well as any other conditions on the use of the funds. (See *also*, section 37-52.3, HRS, that sets out the criteria for the establishment and continuance of special funds.)

Further, if a special fund is established to support the operations of the Commission, and if the Commission then were to receive a gift of moneys from a private entity, an administrative trust account could be established through the Department of Accounting and General Services. An administrative trust account does not need to be established by statute and would allow the Commission to expend those particular donated funds without an appropriation.

We respectfully request that the Committee consider these amendments if the bill passes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**STONEWALL
CAUCUS**

FORMED IN 2001



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

February 5, 2022

Senate's Committees on Judiciary, and Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

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

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Moriwaki and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 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+

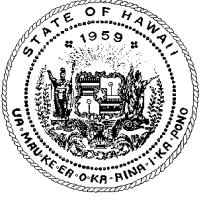
Stonewall Caucus Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 2670

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



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

Friday, February 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

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

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

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

Re: S.B. No. 2670

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 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.

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 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, and creates a trust fund to endow the new commission.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 2670.

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 COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2670

February 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Via 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 (S.B.) No. 2670 adds a new HRS chapter to: 1) establish the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (Commission) within the Department of Human Services; 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); 6) set membership guidelines and duties for the County Committees; 7) establish the Commission Trust Fund (CTF) outside the State Treasury; 8) set the allowable revenue sources, the allowable uses of funds, and the audit requirements of the CTF; and 9) make the establishment of the Commission Trust Fund dependent upon establishment of a Commission foundation non-profit.

B&F notes that House Bill No. 2037 from the 2020 Legislative Session, a similar bill with minor stylistic differences from S.B. No 2670, was amended by its House Draft 1 to remove all language establishing the CTF. Subsequent drafts of the bill also did not include any trust fund language and the bill ultimately did not make it through the legislative session.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of trust funds that require regular general fund appropriations to support its activities, and it is unclear if the proposed trust fund would be self-sustaining. Furthermore, the department also has concerns that S.B. No. 2670's current authorization to allow the Commission foundation non-profit to utilize the CTF does not appear to be in compliance with Article VII, Section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**AND****SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATION**

Friday, February 11, 2022

10:00 AM

Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2670**RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**Chairs RHOADS and MORIWAKI, Vice Chairs KEOHOKALOLE and DELA CRUZ, and Members of the
Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committees

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments in support of SB 2670, which (1) establishes the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission ("Commission") and the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission trust fund 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 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 SB 2670. 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. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

TESTIMONY

Harm Reduction Hawaii
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB2670 to be heard on Friday 11, at 10.00 PM by video conference

Comments

To the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Government Operations

The potential political influence in the selection process may lead to a commission that is not representative. Transwomen of color are not represented in many LBGT organizations. Sex workers are unlikely to be appointed. Our local mahuwahine community would like to be able to speak for itself.

The bill would allow our current lame duck Governor to appoint a commission with four year terms. Problematic choices may be difficult to remove and replace.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan
Chair, The Libertarian Party of Hawaii



7 February 2022

Members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Government Operations:

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.

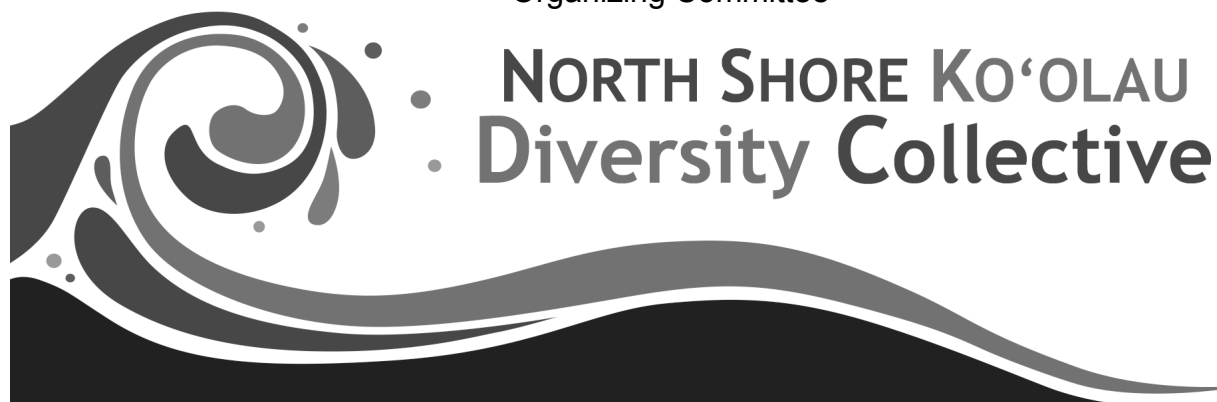
As the text of the bill makes clear, there is a need to establish a body to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community, identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, 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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2670 with comments

TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, & Members – Senate Committee on
Judiciary
Chair Moriwaki, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, & Members – Senate Committee on
Government Operations

FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community

DATE: February 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM

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

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 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.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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		

February 7, 2022

TO: Chairs Rhoads & Moriwaki and Members of JUD/GVO Committees

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

Support for hearing on February 11

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.

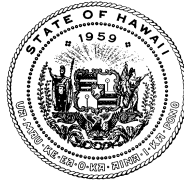
We support this bill as it would establish a commission for the LGBTQ+ community. We agree with the preface of the bill that the State needs to improve its interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community. This bill would identify the short—and long-range needs 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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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 SB2670
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Hearing Date: February 11, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) **SUPPORTS** this measure
2 which would establish a Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+)
3 commission; permit each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of LGBTQ+
4 affairs; and require a trust to administer donations funding the commission activities.

5 **Department Testimony:** This important measure supports equity for the LGBTQ+ community,
6 many of whom are vulnerable and whose needs are unknown, overlooked, or discriminated
7 against. The “Hawai’i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report” (2017

8 <https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep>
9 [ort.pdf](#) and 2018

10 <https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep>
11 [ort2018.pdf](#)) presented data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, showing that Hawaii
12 LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by suicidality, depression, anxiety, and other
13 deleterious health outcomes due to discrimination, harassment, and violence as a result of

1 homophobia and transphobia. Advancing equity for LGBTQ+ people through the formation of
2 the LGBTQ+ commission is an important step in continuing to gather information and
3 decreasing stigmatization, oppression, and other minority stressors that LGBTQ+ people in our
4 communities face. Similar commissions in other states (e.g., Washington, Massachusetts) have
5 shown success in addressing the needs of this community.

6 For these reasons and many more, the Department strongly supports SB2670, which will create a
7 commission of state and county employees devoted to addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+
8 community, thereby increasing equality and decreasing stigma, which can lead to improvements
9 in LGBTQ+ mental health.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None.

11 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health supports this measure if it does not impact the
12 priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for appropriations and
13 personnel priorities.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

Aloha for All is Good Business

February 10, 2022

RE: STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2670: Relating to the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce stands in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2670.

The Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has as part of its mission to advocate for the LGBTQ+ population in advancing equality for all. Membership is open to all businesses, nonprofits, individuals and government agencies that share in the mission. The Chamber recognizes that the LGBTQ+ community has faced incredible historic discrimination that continues to this day, even as we work to overcome its many manifestations in social, economic and health disparities for simply being who they are.

Unfortunately, 2021 was an historic year for bigoted anti-LGBTQ+ proposed legislation across the country. The animus is still very present and old hatreds seemingly have been given new life these past few years in many states across the country. Ugly bills targeting LGBTQ+ youth with so-called "bathroom bills" or "don't say gay" bills which forbid teachers to discuss even the phrase "LGBTQ+" or provide even basic civil rights history of the community have been introduced nationwide. The effect on the youth in the nation where these bills are introduced are particularly devastating for younger people who continue to be surrounded by this bigotry for simply being who they are.

And while the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community has been growing steadily, even if not uniformly and with setbacks, the community itself is growing as our society opens, particularly amongst younger people, where perhaps 1 in 4 may identify as part of this LGBTQ+, there is still an enormous way to go for societal acceptance and normalization of the LGBTQ+ population in general. If this group is only 5-10% of the state population, that would be 75,000 - 150,000 people or so, who have lived a lifetime of various degrees of harassment, discrimination and marginalization. We can and must do better and Bill 2670 will help in this.

We know that the LGBTQ+ population experiences higher rates of health issues ranging from higher homelessness amongst adults and youth, with perhaps 45% of homeless youth self-identifying as LGBTQ+. This group, in part because of marginalization, discrimination and often lack of family support is also unfortunately over-represented in many areas such as rates of tobacco use, substance abuse, suicide, poverty, and violence.

Traditionally shut out from many economic opportunities, including even opportunities in governmental work like teaching or areas requiring security clearances which were automatically disqualifying for self-professed members of this LGBTQ+ community, many in the community did not otherwise enjoy the same types of educational, work and career opportunities that the rest of society had, leading to a lifetime of lower income and increased poverty in older age. The inability to have the stability and many benefits of marriage were also denied LGBTQ+ people

330 Saratoga Road #88768, Honolulu, Hawaii 96830 info@HiRainbowChamber.org (808) 454-3370

www.HiRainbowChamber.org



Aloha for All is Good Business

until very recently, even in Hawaii, which further contributed to conditions that worsened economic and social security systems for LGBTQ+ adults, especially seniors.

Of course, many other areas exist where the needs of the LGBTQ+ community must be addressed if we are to advance all in our society and work towards ending discrimination, marginalization and lower socio-economic conditions for members of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and/or Expression (SOGIE) minority community, and Bill SB2670 is a major step in the right direction.

Fortunately, in Hawaii and other more advanced, fair-minded states and nations, there is a general belief in advancing all of its residents. An important element to do so for the LGBTQ+ population is addressed in SB2670 by creating and LGBTQ+ Commission and trust fund to help identify ways in which we can help this historically marginalized population which cuts across all ethnicities, ages, religions, political beliefs, and other conditions.

There currently exists no effective governmental means in Hawaii of researching, planning, or advocating for the equity of the LGBTQ+ population with regards to state or county governments on an ad-hoc or continuing basis, and this bill is a critical factor in changing that current and ongoing need. Acting as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body for information relating to the status of the LGBTQ+ community in the state, creating positive public awareness and understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and its needs can only serve to better not only individuals in the community, but in turn, the entire society at large. Importantly, this bill also envisions a main role for each county to work on these issues as well, which is critical in an island state such as ours.

This Commission as envisioned will be in a position to recommend studies, legislative and administrative action, and education vital for achieving equity in society. The important larger community and intergovernmental outreach aspects to collaborate and cooperate on the issues facing the LGBTQ+ population are a vital component of this bill as well. As envisioned, the Commission would benefit from and share in learning from other cities, states, nations and other agencies to advance our common humanity and creation of a better state for LGBTQ+ residents of Hawaii. In doing so, we also set Hawaii as a role model in this regard to shine a light as a beacon of hope for others in the nation and world.

For these and many other reasons, we wholeheartedly and STRONGLY SUPPORT Bill 2670.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Winston Welch
President
Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 4:54:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Jaime Stevens
1177 Queen St #2707
Honolulu, HI 96814

February 8, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: SB 2670

Aloha Members of the Senate Judiciary/Government Operations Committee,

I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist writing in support of SB 2670 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. Hawai'i has 3 of the 4 counties in the US with the highest number of same-sex couple API households and the highest per capita number of adults identifying as transgender.

Despite being such a large portion of our communities, LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i have poorer health outcomes than non LGBTQ+ kama'aina. Better understanding of the community through the commission proposed is a first step toward health equity in our State.

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

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:11:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fully support. The establishment of a Commission is a natural progression to address the societal inequality treatment and the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community. It should help to educate the community and uplift the welfare of the LGBTQ+ community.

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 2:13:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarita Rai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. It will signal that the State of Hawaii is inclusive and supports the rights of marjanized communities - LGBTQ+.

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:03:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2670. This idea has long been suggested by various individuals and groups, including Martin Rice and Bill Woods. Although I submit this support as an individual, I belong to several groups who want this measure passed including Rainbow Family 808, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, Pride at Work, and other organizations.

This commission is long overdue. Please pass SB2670.

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

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 4:47:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

You are discriminating against the rest of the people!!

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:50:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of SB2670.

Mahalo,

Eileen McKee

Kihei

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:42:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Camaron Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Camaron Miyamoto, Director LGBTQ+ Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Senate Committee on Government Operations:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2670 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

I am submitting this testimony as an individual that does not represent the official opinion of the university but has worked at the UNiversity of Hawai'i at Mānoa for nearly 20 years as the Director of the LGBTQ+ Center. It is both my professional opinion that establishing the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission is a much needed step towards inclusion and equity in Hawai'i.

Every day I continue to hear from young people who don't have the support they deserve, whether from family, faith organizations, state office, educational systems or other organizations.

I strongly believe that this is a productive and collaborative way to maximize the promise that institutions in Hawai'i should truly be for everyone and that we have the capacity to affirm LGBTQ+ people as we eliminate barriers to access in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2670

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:55:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Feena Bonoan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Feena Bonoan

Makakilo, HI

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:25:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha JDC and GOV Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2670 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

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:54:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi there. My name is Breanna Zoey, my pronouns are she/her, and I am a transgender individual who resides on O'ahu. I am writing in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** of SB2670, 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 this opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:02:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670, 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.

I will also add that the LBTQI+ community should be able to vote who they want to represent our community not from the mayor or any legislation to sit in these LGBTQI+ spaces.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maddalynn Seseapasara

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:39:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anika Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SB2670, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities our LGBTQ+ communities currently face. The presence of even a small number of those who identify as LGBTQ+ can significantly assist with the passage of enhancing gay rights. It is clear that our current government values the importance of addressing the public's concerns. Therefore, the implementation of an LGBTQ+ commission would drastically aid in taking action for the LGBTQ+ community.

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:26:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danielle Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State. This measure is vital to address the needs of 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 nui for your consideration.

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:30:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee Pedersen Rumler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670, 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.

Working with this population for several years it is clearly a critical need for our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:16:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

LGTBQIA2S+ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify. As a member of this expansive and inclusive community, I think that this bill will support efforts to get a seat at the table and have our voices heard. I strongly support SB2670 and believe it will allow for others to see within themselves the resilience and power in being your most authentic self.

Mahalo,

Jessica Waia'u

LATE

SB-2670

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:01:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in **STORNG 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 resident, 96734