



‘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 SB618
February 11, 2021

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports SB618, 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 non-binary people and queer women. This measure is an opportunity 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. The law should protect definitions of family outside of the narrow bounds of heteronormativity.

Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass SB618.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:59:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports SB 618.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 12, 2021

FROM: AF3IRM Hawai'i

RE: SB 618- Relating to Parentage

Position: SUPPORT

AF3IRM Hawai'i testifies in strong support of SB 618, otherwise known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. LGBTQ+ parents are whole, valid, and real, but in Hawai'i they are treated as wrong. "Paternity" law, otherwise known as the Uniform of Parentage Act in Hawai'i only allows male partners of people for unmarried couples giving birth in hospitals to voluntarily establish their parental rights at the time of birth. LGBTQ+ parents are forced to obtain post-birth adoption decrees that cost thousands of dollars, otherwise known as the "queer parent penalty", placing an extreme financial and emotional burden on queer families. Restricting establishing parenthood to those who identify as male is an unconstitutional restriction based on cisheteronormative concepts of parenthood and is not based on ensuring a biological relationship between parent and child.

The "Expedited process of paternity" statute negatively impacts a protected class by limiting the abilities of LGBTQ+ parents to establish parental rights as easily as their cisgendered, heterosexual peers, solely on the basis of gender identity. There is no legitimate purpose to only allow male partners to establish parentage in a system in which corresponding automatic genetic testing to establish biological relationships between non-gestational parent and the child do not exist at the time of birth; the fertility of the non-gestational partner is not considered in the establishment of paternity at birth and therefore the restriction on non-male-identifying partners from exercising the option to establish their parental rights in this manner is not substantially related to any proposed purpose of an expedited process of volunteering parentage. SB 618 would correct a vital technicality that would considerably improve the conditions of LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i. These amendments will open and allow voluntary establishment of parenthood to all partners of a birthing person, regardless of the partner's gender identity or biological contribution to the child. COVID-19 has not only exacerbated the stigma faced in hospitals by queer families, but financial stress too--granting equal rights for LGBTQ+ parents is urgent, SB 618 is the fix we need for a future without LGBTQ+ oppression.

Mahalo for your time and dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:14:56 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 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.

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 on SB 618, and for your consideration of this critical bill.

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Senate Committee on Health

Friday, February 12, 2021
1:00PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB618 RELATING TO PARENTAGE

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

My name is Jun Shin, I am a Junior at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and currently serve as an at-large board member for the Young Progressives Demanding Action. I am testifying today as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB618**, Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill.

SB618 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.

I am currently an undergrad at UH so having a family is still very far in the future for me. But as a straight cisgender male, if later in the future, I decide to establish myself as the legal parent of a child/children on their birth certificates, I would have basically no trouble doing so. I am in strong solidarity with female, non-binary, and queer parents who cannot say the same. Their families deserve the legal recognition, as well as the same rights and benefits as my potential family would have under the law. Our laws really need to catch up.

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.

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 SB618** and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
1561 Kanunu Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:46:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

My name is Ashley Galacgac and I strongly support SB 618- 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.

SB 618 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 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.

SB 618 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.

SB 618 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 our laws.

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 SB 618.

Sincerely,

Ashley Galacgac

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:07:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamaica Osorio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i

My name is Dr. Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio I am an Assistant Professor of Indigenous and Native Hawaiian Politics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My life and research is devoted to the politics of Hawaiian relationships, intimacy, and the violence of colonialism on our historic understanding of pilina and 'ohana. I am also a queer wahine who lives under the tyranny of the state of Hawai'i whose existence and prioritization of heteropatriarchal cultural values continues the colonial violence on my body and the bodies of every Kāhuna naka in our Iāhuna hui, on our ancestral 'Āina. Therefore, I feel uniquely positioned to offer testimony on SB 618 for these reasons.

I strongly support this measure and provide the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. Specifically, because this bill **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.

I encourage you to pass this bill for many reasons including that the passing this bill is an important step to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents and queer families. But because I believe many folks will speak to the specifics of the impact of this bill on the LGBTQ+ community, I will focus on an aspect of this issue that many might may fail to consider. Simply put, passing this bill would not only eliminates discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents & families but also eliminates an important ongoing discrimination against Kanaka Maoli māhū kua (parents) and 'ohana.

My work has allowed me the unique opportunity to study the values and practices of our kāhuna around intimacy and the making of 'ohana. Esteemed scholars such as Lilikalani Kame'eleihiwa laid the groundwork for our understanding of the importance of

punalua (two springs), po'olua (two heads) in the construction of the Kanaka Maoli 'ohana in which paternity was an entirely insufficient metric to rely on to organize and legitimize the Hawaiian 'ohana. In fact, the negotiation of parenthood, or to be a māhū, has much more to do with the environment an 'ohana created to raise a child—rather than the biological circumstances that conceived that child. The true sanctity of 'ohana resides in the act of raising, feeding, and inspiring our keiki. There are many examples of this throughout our History: From Kamehameha Paiea to Lili'uokalani, and throughout our māhū lineages our kupuna demonstrated how incomplete the laws and values of marriage and “birth” are to the ways we imagine and organize our 'ohana.

More recently scholars such as Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ahuia, Nohelani Teves, Kehaulani Kuanui, Maile Arvin, and myself have pointed out the not so subtle violences of missionary introductions such as the institution of marriage has had on generations of Kanaka Maoli 'ohana. Historically the introduction of the institution of marriage and all of its including values are not in alignment with the values of my kāupuna Hawai'i. Who had a far more vast understating and practice of creating 'ohana. Suffice it to say that the existing laws around marriage and parentage in Hawai'i are a legacy of missionary colonization that is continuing to this day to exclude and violate the historic values of 'ohana that many of us māhū naka are still striving to keep alive.

So today I ask you to pass this bill, not only because is the right thing to for our LGBTQ+ families, but because it would be an important step against the ongoing colonization of Hawai'i and the continued oppression of our peoples, histories, and values. This is not simply an issue to be relegated to our queer communities. But rather this is a specific issue of Kanaka Maoli self-determination. Therefore, this is a bill that all peoples who believe in the promise of Kanaka Maoli self-determination should support.

Self-determination over our 'ohana, our ability to appropriately name the māhū of our children (without the interference of the state and foreign values) is a practice of sovereignty. This is work that is essential to the goals of anyone who wishes to honor the 'ike and values of our home in Hawai'i.

Opposition who would rather cling to stale notions of the sanctity of marriage and paternity over the rights of Kanaka Maoli practices of 'ohana to continue on our māhū ina—can simply choose to live somewhere else. For where else should māhū naka Maoli turn to live as māhū naka if not on our own ancestral māhū ina in Hawai'i?

Me ke 'Oia'i'o,

Dr. Jamaica Heoliemeleikalani Osorio

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is 'Ihilani Lasconia and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

The settler state has already made strides for gender-inclusive language, SB 16 would not only allow for our verbiage to change but for the quality of life for LGBTQ+ parents and their keiki to improve greatly. Furthermore, lgbtq+ families are not afforded the many privileges that heteronormative families receive. One of these privileges is not ever being questioned about who the non-gestational parent is. SB 618 would not grant lgbtq+ parents any special privileges in the way that some may think but rather afford lgbtq+ parents the same right to claim and care for their children in the way heteronormative parents do.

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 SB 618.

'Ihilani Lasconia
University of Hawai'i

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:30:55 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Alexandra Balgos and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure to end discrimination against LGBTQ parents.

SB 618 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.

It is unacceptable that parents who do not fit the cisheteronormative ideal are forced into a lengthy, complicated, and expensive process of adoption in order to establish parental rights to their child. As a non-binary person with a non-binary partner, I do not look forward to having to navigate this process for my own child. The law as it is written now is antiquated, flawed, and sends a message to the entire LGBTQ community that the state doesn’t believe in their right to parenthood.

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 SB 618.

Alexandra Balgos

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:55:37 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Talia Schwartz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Talia Schwartz and I speak on behalf of my queer family in Ewa Beach. My fiancée, Kelly, and I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate the ongoing discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents in Hawaii.

SB 618 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 contributions 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.

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" under which 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 healthcare 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 extremely 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 Hawaii and the opportunity to testify on this bill.

-Talia R. Schwartz

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:32:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and 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.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Jasmine Pontillas Davé, Esq.



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 618, RELATING TO PARENTAGE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Friday, February 12, 2021 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Brandon K. Flores,
Deputy Attorney General,
Child Support Enforcement Agency, 330-3098)

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General appreciates the intent of the bill and provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA), codified as chapter 584, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow non-gestational partners of any gender identity to voluntarily establish parentage at the time of a child's birth. The effect of the proposed changes expands the class of people who may establish parentage through the voluntary establishment of paternity process.

There may be unintended effects resulting from this bill. First, the bill, on page 5, lines 6 through 8, defines "gestational parent" as "the partner, of any gender identity, in a married or unmarried relationship who gives birth to the child." Under this definition, male same-sex couples could be precluded from establishing parentage at the time of birth. Second, the bill, on page 5, lines 9 through 14, defines "non-gestational parent" as "the partner, of any gender identity, in a married or unmarried relationship with the gestational parent . . . ; provided that neither partner is legally married to another person at the time of the child's birth." This would end the current practice of allowing a biological father who is legally married to someone else to sign a voluntary acknowledgment of parentage form.

This bill may also create some inconsistencies within chapter 584. For example, section 584-4 presumes that a man who signs a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity is the natural father of the child, section 584-6 states that a man may bring an action for the purpose of declaring the existence of a father and child relationship, and section 584-17 allows for the enforcement of the judgment or order against a father. It is not clear that these same rights and responsibilities would apply to non-gestational partners of a different gender identity that is not male. Therefore, it may be necessary to amend the entire UPA to consistently use gender-neutral terminology throughout so that non-gestational partners of any gender identity receive the same recognition, rights, and responsibilities currently provided to fathers.

Further, the amendments to section 584-3.5, HRS, appear to be internally inconsistent. Subsection (a) states that this process should be provided to unwed parents. (See page 1, line 13). However, the definitions of "gestational parent" and "non-gestational parent" allow either to be in a married relationship, provided that a non-gestational parent may not establish co-parentage unless neither partner is legally married to another person at the time of the child's birth. (See page 5, lines 6 through 14). Finally, the word "paternity" was not changed to "parentage" on page 6, line 18.

The Department recommends that the bill include an additional requirement that parents who seek to expedite the process of parentage establishment have the opportunity to speak with staff, either by telephone or in person, who are trained to clarify information and answer questions about parentage establishment. This is required by federal law. 45 CFR. § 303.5(g)(2)(i)(D). We propose adding a new subsection (a)(4) on page 2, line 19:

- (4) The opportunity to speak with staff, either by telephone or in person, who are trained to clarify information and answer questions about parentage establishment.

Because of the complexity of the bill, the Department would welcome the opportunity to work with the Legislature to achieve the intended purpose of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:01:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports SB 618.



Hawaii Women's Coalition

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Representative Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 12, 2021
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Via videoconference

FROM: Hawai'i Women's Coalition

RE: SB 618- Relating to Parentage
Position: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i Women's Coalition testifies today in support of Senate Bill 618, otherwise known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. LGBTQ+ parents are whole, valid, and real, but in Hawai'i they are treated as wrong. "Paternity" law, otherwise known as the Uniform of Parentage Act in Hawai'i only allows male partners of people for unmarried couples giving birth in hospitals to voluntarily establish their parental rights at the time of birth. LGBTQ+ parents are forced to obtain post-birth adoption decrees that cost thousands of dollars, placing an extreme financial and emotional burden on queer families. There is no legitimate purpose to only allow male partners to establish parentage in a system in which corresponding automatic genetic testing to establish biological relationships between non-gestational parent and the child do not exist at the time of birth; the fertility of the non-gestational partner is not considered in the establishment of paternity at birth and therefore the restriction on non-male-identifying partners from exercising the option to establish their parental rights in this manner is not substantially related to any proposed purpose of an expedited process of volunteering parentage. SB 618 would correct a vital technicality that would considerably improve the conditions of LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i. These amendments will open and allow voluntary establishment of parenthood to all partners of a birthing person, regardless of the partner's gender identity or biological contribution to the child. COVID-19 has not only exacerbated the stigma faced in hospitals by queer families, but financial stress too--granting equal rights for LGBTQ+ parents is urgent, SB 618 is the urgent fix we need for a future without LGBTQ+ oppression.

Mahalo for your time and dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Women's Coalition

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:36:39 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura E. Williams	Testifying for aloha counselors	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i Aloha Counselors strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. We at Aloha Counselors urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

Aloha Counselors works with a lot of LGBTQIA+ clients, and it is tremendously important that all people have rights to be legally acknowledged as rightful parents.

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 SB 618.

Laura E. Williams

Of behalf of Aloha Counselors

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:23:54 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nora Pollard	Testifying for Trans Hawai'i Project	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keahokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. Trans Hawai'i Project, a mutual aid and social group of politically involved transgender people, strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i.

My name is Nora Pollard and I strongly support this measure as an individual and member of Trans Hawai'i Project, and I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents. SB 618 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 transgender woman, and as a lesbian, I don't know what my family will look like in the future. Society hasn't shown me many examples of people like me older and happier with children or even grandchildren. All I know is that regardless of whether I have biological children or adopt, it will be challenging past the trouble most cisgender, heterosexual couples have to deal with in the pursuit of parenthood. I don't want this for myself, and I definitely don't want it for the young LGBTQ+ people who follow behind me. We deserve better and I'm glad to support a bill that takes steps towards making that future a little easier to see.

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 SB 618.

Nora Pollard

On behalf of Trans Hawai'i Project

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:04:29 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole and Vice Chair Baker,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - 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.

SB 618 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, which we know can only contribute to the better health and emotional wellbeing of queer and gender diverse birthing people.

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 SB 618

Sincerely,

Sarah Michal Hamid

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:45:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass SB618.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:47:54 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Please help parents. Especially during a pandemic, lgbtq parents don't deserve to have to deal with legal and structural barriers to taking care of their families.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:20:15 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The most incredible gift a child can receive is being guided through the world by a loving parent or parents. In the last year I have had the amazing opportunity to get to know my friends in this new light. It breaks my heart to know that they are unable to establish something as simple as mutual legal parentage of their child. Parents should be defined by the love and dedication they have for their children, not their gestational status. Please support this bill to recognize all who voluntarily wish to establish the legal parentage of their children.

Sincerely,

Melanie Lander

Makiki

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:31:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for receiving my testimony in SUPPORT of SB618. All people should have the right to parenthood. Mahalo.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:52:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:55:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alejandro Balandran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and provide the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Alejandro Balandrán and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 member of the LGBTQ+ community in Hawaii and hopeful future same-sex parent, I strongly support this measure.

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 SB 618.

aloha,

Alejandro Balandrán

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:55:40 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadia Fale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my full support of this bill. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community as well as a strong advocate for equal rights, I believe that this bill is urgently needed to protect the rights of countless 'ohana. No parent should face discrimination based on their gender or sexual identity nor their marital status. Such discrimination is damaging not only to these parents but to their children as well. 'Ohana come in all different shapes and sizes and it is my sincere hope that our legislature will do their part in protecting each of them without discrimination.

Mahalo nui loa,

Nadia Fale

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SB 618 - RELATING TO PARENTAGE

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to present this testimony. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 queer woman, the adoption of neutral language and other amendments of SB618 mean a great deal to me and my family. The language by AF3IRM Hawaii is concise and accurate to my views, please see the following paragraphs to further reflect my reasons for supporting these changes.

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 attention to this testify.

Chauncey HH

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:21:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Mackey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Anna Mackey and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 citizens of Hawai'i, I want to live in a place where parenting is open to all peoples. No one should have their options of how to start a family limited based on money, gender, or class status.

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 SB 618.

Anna Mackey

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:22:42 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Boteilho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Tina Boteilho and I support SB 618 to recognize parentage for both parents of a child. I was born and raised on Maui, went to college on the mainland, and returned home to serve the community I grew up in. I work in human services. I am the noncarrying parent of a beautiful, intelligent, active, creative, and loving 6 year old boy. When we wanted to start a family we did not think we would face the significant and ongoing challenges, discrimination, and lack of support based on his birth certificate. When he was born in 2015 we were so happy. At hospital we filled out all the legal paperwork with our information. We were shocked when our sons birth certificate came in the mail and my portion was blank. There was no recognition of his full ethnic background we listed on the hospital paperwork. He is also native Hawaiian, Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese. His birth certificate only listed his biological mother and caucasian. We called the DOH office. We were informed birth certificates only proved maternal and paternal lines. We spoke to attorneys, the courts, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. We were told "Sorry that's the law, we can't help you". We were told because we are two women, weren't married, and weren't able to do second parent adoption based on our relationship. No one could help. Over the past 6 years we have been challenged daily. Everything we do with our son requires paperwork showing his biological mother gives me permission. We cannot travel, go to the doctor, participate in school, or anything needing legal permission without a notarized letter. As queer parents we constantly feel discriminated against because of the lack of complete parentage and ethnicity on his birth certificate. We are equal parents in raising our child, please support us and pass SB 618. Mahalo.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:34:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony in support of SB618. This bill fairly simply proposes to update the language of existing law to be gender neutral, and subsequently inclusive of queer families. It is unconstitutional to limit voluntary parentage to heterosexual cisgender men only. I urge you to pass SB618 and ensure equal access to legal parentage. Supporting this bill will allow LGBTQ couples to establish voluntary parentage without having to undertake expensive and lengthy co-parent adoption processes. Rhode Island has already passed a similar law under the Uniform Parentage Act. Opposition to this bill is discriminatory against our LGBTQ families.

On a personal note, my wife, the non-gestational parent of our son, is as much his mother as I am. She fed us while he was in utero, she was there to welcome him into the world, she cut his cord, she gave him his first bath, she held him as I slept and recovered from his arrival. She changes his diapers, sings to him before sleep, prepares his bottles and now his first foods, she reads about developmental activities, saves for his education, trims his nails, holds him while he receives his vaccinations, the list goes on. She is his parent. Legally acknowledge her and other parents like her as such.

Mahalo,

Kaleigh DeSimone

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:05:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marie janiszewski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Marie Janiszewski and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

I have numerous friends and family members who identify as LGBTQ+ whom I not only support in having and raising families, but I also notice the inequities that our society and institutions impose upon these loved ones, as compared to myself. As a cis-woman, I enjoy certain privileges of this dominant societal group and my position of privilege seems absolutely arbitrary. It was not by choice, ability, intelligence, appearance, or any other reason that our social structure was formed to benefit my interests - namely here, my male partner's ability to register our child as his own - and to punish others who hold a different identity. This is one step along a much longer road of reform, equity, and justice. You, legislators, cannot change the hearts of society with your laws - that is for ALL of us to do in community with each other. But you do have the responsibility to provide fertile ground for us to share in this most basic act of living a life-well-lived together. Meeting basic needs and providing an

even playing field to live this life allows greater capacities for collaboration and understanding within our communities. Please enact laws like this one - SB618 - that generates greater equality and justice for ALL members of our 'ohana.

I strongly support this measure and provide the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. 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 SB 618.

Marie Janiszewski

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:22:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annalise Brolaski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and provide the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Annalise Brolaski and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

If you are discriminatory towards LGBTQ+ people because of your religious beliefs, you need to realize that love is love and you do not get to control that, no matter how different it may seem. Someone taking full responsibility and loving care for a child should have the right to easily take care of every day normal parental duties without having to jump through hoops and cut through red tape.

SB 618 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.

We are all human. We all deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and equality. I want you to think of a person that you love. Now, take that feeling of love for them, and put yourself in the shoes of a person who identifies with the LGBTQ+ community. That is what equality is. It is saying that you and they have the exact same rights. Neither of you has less rights, neither of you has more rights. It is quite a simple concept, really. Love is love. Why make life any harder for anyone?

We are all the same. We are all human. No one is perfect. You are allowed to change your mind, moment to moment. You are allowed to grow. You are here in this position because you want what's best for your family, friends, and community, right? You must be brave enough to make this simple, yet, very important decision. This is your job. You were voted into this position with the promise and faith that you will do what is right. Every single human on this earth deserves the same rights that you have. This shouldn't even be something we need to vote on. It should be a simple fix. Let's make it happen.

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 SB 618.

Sincerely,

Annalise

A non-LGBTQ+ person. Just a person that believes in equal human rights for all

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:54:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chloe Pua'ena Vierra-Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Chloe Pua'ena Vierra-Villanueva and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

My wife and I were married in 2020 and are currently on our fertility journey to become parents. We are both Early Childhood Education professionals in Hawai'i and look forward to the day we can both be mothers to our children and legally have our names on their birth certificates at birth without barriers.

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 SB 618.

Chloe Pua'ena Vierra-Villanueva

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:12:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Vierra-Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill.

SB 618 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.

My wife and I were married this past year and we are on our journey now to grow our family this year. We were not aware of the barriers we will face for when our children are born just for both my wife and I to be recognized on our child's birth certificate. We support this bill to help remove the undue burden of legal, financial and emotional discrimination to LGBTQ+ families.

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 SB 618.

Erin Vierra-Villanueva

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:28:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tea™sha Kahumoku-Derricotte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:26:01 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hartline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an Instructor of Early Childhood Education at Honolulu Community College, and a lesbian. My career has been dedicated to supporting families, and in particular marginalized families.

If my wife and I were to choose to have children, it would have already taken us extraordinary planning and resources that it would have not taken a straight couple - this is a simple matter of biology.

But - parental rights are not a simple matter of biology. They are granted by the state.

The state does not require a paternity test to name a father on a birth certificate; their only qualifying factor for state-acknowledged paternity is that they are male. Birth certificates do not reflect biological imperatives; they are legal and social documents that acknowledge a child's place in a family.

If my wife and I were to choose to have children, the state would be explicitly discriminating against our status as a same-gender family, in violation of the principles that are dearest to our state.

If my wife and I were to choose to have children, we would be able to navigate the process of adding both of us to the birth certificate. It would be an undue and unnecessary burden, but it is something that we could navigate. But we should not have to.

Of course, this is not about an annoying process for me and my wife. This has real life consequences for real life people. This bill has the chance of rectifying a discriminatory policy, and making Hawaii more equitable for all its families.

I strongly urge you to support this bill.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:04:02 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tonee Burley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Aloha, My name is Tonee Burley and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Tonee Burley M.S., CCC-SLP (she/her)

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:12:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Dakota Burley-Cary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill.: My name is Robert Burley-Cary and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:00:29 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HTH Committee Members:

As a concerned community citizen and public health professional, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT for SB618** 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 generations of Hawai'i, I urge you to pass measure SB618.

With aloha,

Thaddeus Pham

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:01:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Kandagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 618 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 someone who is queer and may adopt in the future, this amendment is extremely important in protecting that right and the rights of my partner.

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.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:09:35 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a person of color and a member of the LGBTQ community. I am also a daughter of immigrants who didn't have the privilege of going to school past middle school and high school. I am now someone who holds a master's degree in science and the first in my family to have been able to get higher education. It is because of the sacrifices my family made for me that I was able to achieve all that I have. With so many barriers set in place for immigrants to succeed in America, I owe so much to my parents. They sacrificed for me so that I could have a better life. This kind of sacrifice demonstrates a love that only family can give you. One day I want to be able to provide that kind of love for my future children, and I know I will but with very little help from my government because my life is recognized as less than the lives of heterosexual Americans. I've fought so hard in my life to get to where I am today and yet the fight does not stop because I need to continue to fight for my rights as a mother. When I choose to start a family, I'll not be able to experience the pure joy of celebrating the start of my family. I'll have to worry that I won't get the same rights as my partner if I'm not the gestational partner. It's a shame that our America and continues to argue about the rights that should be given to non traditional families. Our America is changing and our laws are not changing quickly enough to accommodate the shifting landscape of the people who make up this country. Please demonstrate the values that America was built on, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:24:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terina Faagau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i [Organization Name] strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. [Individuals testifying in support: My name is ___ and I strongly support this measure.] We [Individuals: I] urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

It is vital that the rights of all parents, regardless of gender or sexuality, are recognized. Not only is this matter important for Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ individuals and community but also for Hawai'i's keiki and future generations of children who are increasingly raised in what some might consider "non-traditional" households. 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 SB 618.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:28:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tami Whitney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on such an important measure. I

As a cis-gender, single mother, and public health professional, I STRONGLY support HB1096 which would allow for non-binary, trans, and queer parents who do not identify as female/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.

Tami Whitney

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:35:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefanie B Hildreth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this in support of SB618. I have a 6 year old son who I have with an ex girlfriend of mine. She was there for contraception, pregnancy, birth and has been there to support our son since. We currently split 50/50 custody between ourselves(not filed in court)as we see she is our sons mother just as much as me just not biologically. I am the only legal guardian and would love for her to be able to be seen as a legal parent as well. I think that if two people decide to have a child and one leaves but continues their relationship with child and supports that child they should be able to be half responsible and if something happens to me I know he will not be taken from his other parent and she can rightfully and legally continue to care for and support him. Please pass this bill so ALL families can be recognized.

Mahalo for your time

Stefanie Hildreth

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:25:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Tabata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Megan Tabata and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 queer woman who would like to start a family one day, this bill affects me personally.

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 SB 618.

Megan Tabata

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:51:51 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cedar Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Keohokalole e Vice-Chair Baker a me esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Mahalo for this opportunity to share testimony for SB618. My name is Cedar Wilson I strongly urge the passing of this bill. SB618 would eliminate discrimination against LGBTQIA+ Makua/parents in Hawai'i. Gender and biological ties should not be the determining factors for parentage. Whether someone has biological ties to their child shouldn't keep them from rights as parents such as having their name on the birth certificat. This bill specifically turns to gender-neutral language, which would naturally include parentage rights to transgender, nonbinary, queer, and females instead of only prioritizing male parenthood (ex. Parentage in place of paternity). Current law allows male partners of birthing people the option to volunteer themselves as the other legal parent and establish parenthood on a birth certificate. The same rights should be afforded to female, nonbinary, transgender, and queer partners. Because of current law, LGBTQ+ parents that are not male are subject to the "queer parent penalty" and 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 be 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 SB 618.

Cedar Wilson

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:42:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abby Snyder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB618 as a queer person residing in Honolulu. All of my political involvement is in the dream of creating a better world. I believe, as legislators, you share in this dream. I hope that this testimony illuminates the ways that SB618 assists us in building that world.

This bill addresses multiple barriers to queer family building. The first, most obviously, is the economic hurdle that queer non-gestating parents must leap in order to gain the same legal recognitions automatically afforded to other families. The State Legislature, with this bill, has the opportunity to correct something it has gotten wrong - building legal structures around a singular idea of a family. And further, punishing by payment families that don't fit that idea. Nobody benefits from this fee. But I can assure you, many have had to make difficult financial and familial decisions because of it.

The second, less obvious benefit of this bill, is that it clears one more hurdle in the emotional task of queer family and community building. Although it may not be obvious to our cisgender and straight colleagues or legislators, queer people face barriers to belonging almost daily. Whether that is losing the families we are born into, difficulties dating, workplaces that do not honor pronouns or bathrooms, sports teams that bar participation, or other institutional discrimination, queer people are constantly affronted by profound loneliness and disconnection. It takes an enormous amount of work to fiercely love and protect the relationships we do build. This queer love is unlike ANY I have experienced elsewhere, and I hope that, if you do not already understand the depth and magnificence of a queer person's love, you will in the future.

This is a simple and powerful bill that will turn the mountain of becoming a non-gestating parent into a mere stepping stone. I beg you, help make this world more livable for queer parents fighting to create belonging for themselves and their children.

Thank you,

Abby Snyder

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:42:49 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a queer indigenous person, I have had to fight for my ability to be genuinely me in every space, throughout my life. The fear of being rejected at the workplace, in social and public settings and the home you grew up in, is something every queer person has had to navigate. When we grow into ourselves as adults, and we find love in partnership and family, we create our own safe spaces and sanctuaries while fostering love and acceptance. The love between individuals creating a safe home with love and understanding, to raise families, is a sacred space. The state should push this bill through, because every person deserves to grow up in a home that is accepting and welcoming everyone with love and that includes having a home where parents are validated as parents. LGBTQ+ parents should not be penalized for their gender or biological contribution to a child. There is a long history of delegitimizing queer relationships, particularly during the AIDS pandemic, and we had to see partners unable to say goodbye to their loved ones as they passed away. I have been lucky enough to also have build a loving home for myself in partnership to create safe spaces, and recognize the immense value that has on our identities and self acceptance. Validating and normalizing families from a legal standpoint will help nourish people positively for a lifetime.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:53:44 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Vice Chair Matayoshi,

I am a cis-hetero resident of Kaimuki writing to you today in full support of SB 618 relating to parentage. This bill will ammend the unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQ+ people in our community. Currently, the law dictates that 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/or queer partners. The systems that force such financial and emotional burden upon these people in order to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child's valid parent are not only wrong, but they are extremely antiquated and not a reflection of the aloha we strive to show and share with our LGBTQ+ community members.

Queer families are beautiful and valid and our state's systems need to reflect and support that fact by removing the barriers they face when establishing parenthood.

Thank you for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawaii and the opportunity to testify on SB 618.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:04:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maria kalai denzer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. [Individuals testifying in support: My name is Maria Kalai and I strongly support this measure.] I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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.

Maria kalai Denzer

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:29:41 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in support for SB 618.

This bill amends the unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQIA+ community, gender identity for a non-binary or female partner should not be a barrier to establish parentage. Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children without having to face financial and emotional barriers to obtain an adoption decree for legal recognition as their child's valid parent.

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

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:54:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and provides 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.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Erika Kim

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:38:22 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rose Mary Boteilho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony of SB-618, Relating to Parentage, also know as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I am a parent to my queer daughter who has a non-gestational relation to her son. The unnecessary burden that has been placed on my daughter to care for her son, who is now 6, is unethical and discriminatory. I, and my family, were born and raised on Maui dating back to the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Our culture speaks to understanding, compassion, and acceptance of all of those who participate in raising a child. If there are two people, who are voluntarily offering to take on financial responsibility to a child, how is this not the best action for our state? We know so many children and families are struggling for many reasons in our islands--this brings me back to the unnecessary burden placed on well and informed intentioned persons partnering in parentage. It is imminent that the State of Hawai'i honors our culture and history of our islands by granting the privileges of parenthood equally to same sex parents, as we do to mixed sex couples who intentionally or unintentionally bring a child into this world. It is creating the security net for the child first. Our culture focuses on our attention on our actions to preserve the future—this step with SB-618 preserves and protects children with those whom bring them into the world. I appreciate your time and assistance with this and hope the State of Hawai'i acts in the intentional and proactive manner we identify as our state's culture.

Rose Mary Boteilho, Makawao, HI

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:41:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pili Keala-Quinabo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because all mā• kua (parents) are valid.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:18:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meghan Walles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony of SB-618, Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I am a local citizen concerned about the inequities in identifying parentage, with not just unidentified parentage, but the children being left to deal with the inequity of current legislation. The unnecessary burden that has been placed on queer couples who made informed decisions to become parents, is unethical and problematic to our children, families, and also to our financial aspects of Hawai'i. Two parents who are voluntarily committing to supporting a child—physically, emotionally, financially, by being recognized as equal legal parent seems the most prudent choice and it is truly unclear the discussion of alternative arguments. Our state's culture speaks to understanding, compassion, and acceptance of all of those who participate in raising a child. If there are two people, who are voluntarily offering to take on financial responsibility to a child, gestational and non, how is this not the best action for our state? Treating a co-parent as a blended step-parent is adding unnecessary burden to the children who are growing up in these increasing quantities of families. How is this ethical for our children? If we are teaching and preaching inclusivity and acceptance of everyone, how can we have legislation that creates such confusing messages? We know so many children and families are struggling for many reasons in our islands--this brings me back to the unnecessary burden placed on well and informed intentioned persons partnering in parentage. It is imminent that the State of Hawai'i honors our culture and history of our islands by granting the privileges of parenthood equally to same sex parents, as we do to mixed sex couples who intentionally or unintentionally bring a child into this world. It is creating the security net for the child first. Our culture focuses on our attention on our actions to preserve the future—this step with SB-618 preserves and protects children with those whom bring them into the world. I appreciate your time and assistance with this and hope the State of Hawai'i acts in the intentional and proactive manner we identify as our state's culture.

Meghan Walles, LCSW Makawao, Maui 96768

February 10, 2021

Troy Wallace Ballard
1535 Pensacola Street, Apt. #30,
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Uniform Parentage Act, Expedited Process of Parentage

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and believe it makes a significant impact on families across Hawai'i. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Troy Wallace Ballard

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:58:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donavan Albano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB618: Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Donovan Albano, and **I strongly support this measure and urge you to pass SB618 to eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.**

Continuing to persist in systems that operate under cisheteronormativity concepts of parenting, Hawai'i has treated LGBTQ+ parents wrongly - when they are in fact, valid, whole, and real. This measure amends the Uniform Parentage Act, or the "Paternity" Law, 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, and requires the State to recognize parentage determinations from other states and territories. The "expedited process of paternity" statute in itself represents the upholding of heteropatriarchy and discriminating against LGBTQ+ parents. In doing so, it places extreme financial and emotional burden on LGBTQ+ parents and families, and restricts establishing parental rights, which has even been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. By only affording male partners of birthing people the ability to establish parenthood is an unconstitutional restriction and continues to uphold cisheteronormative parenting, for these rights are not afforded to female, non-binary, trans, and queer folks.

Granting equal rights for LGBTQ+ parents is long overdue. Gender-neutral language must be adopted, and in this case, through the use of "parenting" instead of "paternity," which would validate and ensure the parenting rights for all birthing folx. Hawai'i has thousands of LGBTQ+ residents, and you, as Senators have a duty, to show that LGBTQ+ parents are valid and equal. Leaving the Uniform Parentage Act unamended is to uphold cisheteropatriarchy, perpetuate the discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents, and leave the barriers that LGBTQ+ families face in parenting their children. Parents of any gender identity should be able to establish their valid and legal right to parent their children. Queer families should no longer face stigma and barriers in establishing their parental rights. This is long overdue, and I urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to submit testimony on SB618.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:06:29 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsay Terkelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Lindsay and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

Without this measure, LGBTQ+ parents will continue to face discrimination and inequality as parents--a burden that directly and indirectly impacts their children. As keiki are our future, we need measures like this to eliminate discrimination and affirm mā• kua the rights to parent. This includes allowing both parents' names to appear on a child's birth certificate, which is a critical document for health care decisions, international travel and migration, education, and more.

Furthermore, current law upholds sexism and causes financial and gender inequities as outlined below by AF3IRM Hawai'i, and is due for amendment:

"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."

I strongly support SB618 as it opens the voluntary establishment of parenthood to all partners of birthing persons, regardless of their gender identity or biological contribution to the child.

Mahalo for your committment to equity and LGBTQ+/Mā• hÅ« parenting rights.
Best Regards,
Lindsay Terkelsen

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:08:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Simpson-Gomez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Lauren Simpson-Gomez, and I strongly support this. I am urging you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

I am a transgender child who was fortunate enough to have my mom never experience such a hardship with me. Because of this, it is deeply personal to me that this never happen to any parent ever. I myself will have to struggle with the hardships this bill is trying to abolish as a transgender man who will want kids. I will have to fight for my rights as a parent to my child if I and/or my partner choose to adopt or birth. I should have a right to establish parentage and give my future child a right to be loved and cared for. Biologically related or not.

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 SB 618.

Lauren Simpson-Gomez

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:35:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Tito Gapelu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and provide the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Ryan Tito Gapelu and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 member of the LGBTQ+ community in Hawaii and hopeful future same-sex parent, I strongly support this measure.

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 SB 618.

Best,

Ryan Tito Gapelu

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:40:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:12:30 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support.

I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parent.

This bill with its' gender neutral language will recognize the validity of all birthing people and families.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:40:30 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Koza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Kyle Koza and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Kyle Koza

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:21:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miya DeVoogd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Miya DeVoogd; I am an LGBTQ+ ally. I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

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. LGBTQ+ people have undergone statistically high amounts of bullying and are often times scared to be themselves in public. Then after all they endure, there are laws against them - more bullying... legal bullying.

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 nui loa for your consideration of granting Hawaiian residents the rights everyone deserves. Human rights.
Miya DeVoogd.

[Name]

On behalf of [Organization Name]

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:12:05 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB618.

I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure as is. It 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.

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.

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. The birth certificate is the document used as evidence of parental rights, so establishing parenthood on birth certificates is very important.

Mahalo nui loa.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:54:33 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1096 which would allow for 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.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:13:08 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve N Neumann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is G. Noe Neumann and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

My wife gave birth to our son, Lorenzo, in February of 2020 at Kapiolani Hospital. We felt very comfortable and well taken care of, even though Lorenzo had to spend the night in the NICU. Before we left, we were given the birth certificate form to fill out. Nikki's name went on the section marked "Mother", and I simply crossed out "Father" and wrote "Mother" above it, and wrote my name in that section. We received a birth certificate for our son with both of our names on it as his parents, and are so thankful to Kapiolani Hospital that we were able to do that at the hospital like all other new parents, rather than have to go through the rigamarole and expense of legal adoption with an attorney.

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 necessarily 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 SB 618.

G. Noe Neumann

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:23:29 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and members,

Strong support for this measure which would redress current discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

Please pass out of Committee,

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair Emeritus Hawaii Women's Coalition

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:49:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dory Baga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill.

My name is Dory Baga and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Dory Baga

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:54:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuulei Meyers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. [Individuals testifying in support: My name is Kuulei Meyers and I strongly support this measure.] We [Individuals: I] urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Kuulei Meyers

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:56:22 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kara Akiyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Kara Akiyama 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.

SB 618 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.

Times are changing and so should rules and regulations like this that would harm no one else but uplift a wonderful and contributing group of people in our community. Let's for once be ahead of the times instead of behind it. Let's continue to lead the country as one of the most inclusive and progressive states. This is after all the aloha state is it not? And how would you feel if your child were LGBTQ+ and you didn't take this opportunity to make a normal family structure a possibility for your child.

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 SB 618.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:09:11 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hollie Bearden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i. My name is Hollie Bearden and as a middle aged daughter of a gay man, I strongly urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents. My life is exponentially better because my Dad lived his truth--long before it was acceptable to do so.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Hollie Bearden

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist in Hawaii, Oregon & Washington

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:15:26 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Boles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Laura Boles and I strongly support this measure.] I implore you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

In my teaching experience over the past decade, it has been apparent to me that the gender identity of my students' guardians is far less important than the relationship that parents have with their students. It is senseless to me that LGBTQ+ parents who love and support their children are not given the same rights as cisgender, heteronormative relationships.

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 SB 618.

Laura Boles

02-11-21

RE: SB618

Aloha,

I support this Bill, which, in essence 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. I believe "parentage" is a necessary right and its confirmation contributes to not only the wellbeing of the child/ person. It also greatly contributes to the strengthening of families and to the nurturing of community. It does allow the "common good", in my opinion, to rise to the top of the public policy debate and enactment.

Mahalo nui

John A H Tomoso+, MSW

Social Worker and Episcopal Priest

51 Ku'ula Street, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

cc;NASW, MAUINONPROFIT

808-280-1749 - john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:35:18 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health

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 SB 618.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:45:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I support HB1096 which would allow for 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. Every person should have the right to establish their parental rights regardless of their gender identity. Thank you. Linda Kim, APRN

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:20:10 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - My name is Ondina Hiel 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.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Ondina Hiel

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:21:20 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellena Ruiz-Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

My name is Ellena Isabelle Ruiz-Lindsey and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents, please.

SB 618 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 someone who is queer and wants to be a parent here in the future, I would like to be able for my spouse to have no problems putting their non-binary self on the birth certificate.

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 SB 618.

[Name]

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:24:01 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalyn Wadsworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure because it will have a significant positive impact on families in Hawai'i and help eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents. Non-binary, female, and queer partners should not face the barriers they currently do in establishing parenthood to their children. Opening up access for parents of any gender to legally establish parenthood to their children will help remove some of the discriminatory barriers LGBTQ+ parents face and allow for them to have better opportunities to help their children access various resources in society.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:35:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christen Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a straight ally of LGBTQIA families. I want my children to grow up in a world that supports the diversity of families that exist. Also as a parent myself I want the same status and acknowledgment for parents who are keeping healthy loving homes for their children. For these reasons I am in support of SB618. Thank you for your consideration

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:37:58 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Houar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is already in line with the state's recognition of non-binary and transgender identity-x designation as affirmed by the state of Hawaii on Driver's licenses, etc. There should be the ability for this gender identity designation to be extended to non-gestational parents, as all genders can be non-gestational parents. This is logical. Please pass this bill so that people of all genders can parent with the same rights and freedoms as cis-gender individuals.

Blended families, adoptive parents, etc are all examples of families where there are also benefits to extending the recognition to include all genders to non-gestational parents. Please do not force people who might choose to build and rebuild their family units based on many different personal reasons (including safety) to go through extra unnecessary labor in comparison to what is recognized as "NORMAL" parent formations. We all know, that beyond LGBTQIA+ family units, there are many other kinds of families that exceed (and can thrive if given the right to) beyond what has been called "normal" according to the traditional models of marriage and family. Give them the capacity to thrive in this state.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:25:19 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chanel Makepa-Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I strongly support this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Chanel Makepa-Wong and I strongly support this measure.] We **myself and my wife** urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

My wife and myself just had our first child this past June. He is a blessing and one that we worked and fought so hard to have come true. As a queer couple, the steps to conceiving a child are very arduous and at times very tough, but always well worth it. Irregardless of our sexual orientation, we are parents and we are fighting for both of us to have the legal right to be recognized as such to our son. It is highly discriminatory and outdated that our laws do not recognize LGBTQ+ individuals as legal parents. We deserve the same rights to our families and our children as heterosexual couples do. We are no different. We have the legal right to marry, but not the legal right to parent our children? This has to change and I am urging you to be a part of that change.

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 SB 618.

Chanel Makepa-Wong

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:34:27 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Obichang Ongklungel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate,

I humbly but enthusiastically ask for your support for SB618 to affirm the right and privilege for all people regardless of sexual orientation to be legal parents. The restrictions and limitations on LGBTQ individuals from parenthood were born out of fear, distrust, ignorance and bigotry. One's capacity to love a child is not commensurate to their sexual orientation any more than it is to their race or creed. This bill would ensure children are born into families with loving parents and afford protections for the child in the event that one of the parents should die, especially in childbirth. Affirming the parentage of both parties in a relationship ensures hospitals can provide proper care and due diligence for all concerned and preserves the dignity of both parents; eliminates the risk of children becoming wards of the state in the death of one parent where their partner is not recognized; and ensures children have proper custody so disapproving family members cannot wrest the child away.

This is a simple, straightforward idea: parents don't have to be of blood relation to be parents. By allowing both parties in a relationship to confirm their parenthood of a child at birth, we honor the children by allowing them to be born into loving homes and families.

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Lani Teves and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

I know first-hand the discrimination this bill is trying to fix. I am a parent to a young child who had to be adopted by my partner of 9 years, a person who along with myself conceived this child in every sense except biologically. Luckily we had the financial means to acquire a lawyer to help us through this process, but we know many others who do not have this privilege. Keeping this adoption requirement prevents so many families from having full rights provided to straight couples. Further, now that we are enrolling our child in preschool, we are experiencing additional mistreatment. When applying we were asked to provide a birth certificate and because all the forms said “father” rather than parent, I was subjected to extensive personal questioning by school authorities about private matters relating to my child’s conception. All because despite my partner’s name being on the birth certificate, because it is the norm for it to say “father”, our family was called into question. This is just one small example of the slew of discrimination LGBTQ families face. Having a bill that declared us both as equal parents would work to change this injustice.

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. We paid well over five thousand dollars to obtain the assistance of a lawyer through the adoption process.

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 SB 618.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Teves', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Stephanie Nohelani Teves
Associate Professor of Women's Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:37:04 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in support of SB 618. 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. Queer parents and families are just as legitimate as straight, cis-hetero ones. It's time that the state acknowledges this and removes unfair burdens.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Catherine Ritti

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:38:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn 'Alamea-Xian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Members of the Committee:

My ohana and I stand in strong support of SB618. As an LGBTQ parent who has been repeatedly discriminated against by DHS and CWS without cause, I attest that this bill must become law in the best interests of justice and access to justice.

Please pass this measure. Mahalo,

Sincerely,

Kathryn 'Alamea-Xian

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:50:35 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Thank you,

Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:10:43 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Maile Wong and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 who one day hopes to build a family here in Hawai'i, the status quo is glaringly unjust and blatantly discriminatory. In order to move forward in establishing equity among all families, the framework through which we support all families needs to be the same. Gender identity should not be a mechanism through which the state delineates who has the right to be a parent and at what cost.

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 SB 618.

Maile Wong

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:16:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teatuahere Teiti-Gierlach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Teatuahere Teiti-Gierlach and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Teatuahere Teiti-Gierlach

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:24:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Aitken	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have three children, aged 14, 12, and 12 – all conceived via surrogacy. In order to satisfy legal obligations for parentage, I was forced to arrange the births in California, where surrogacy laws had already been established and tested in court. The conceptions and births required multiple trips to the mainland. While the end result was spectacular, the process was encumbered by lack of legal process in the state of Hawaii.

Parenthetically, note that this was a significant boost to the California economy!

Please make sure that this bill also includes the option of removing one parent from the birth certificate in cases where there is no replacement. That would result in a birth certificate establishing one parent while leaving the other parent blank, as was the case for my family.

Thank you for supporting and establishing this long overdue procedure.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:47:47 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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 SB 618.

Aisha Malik

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:55:22 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Aloha mai e Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I **strongly support**, SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. This measure and provides 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.

SB 618 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.

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.

Thank you all for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on SB 618.

Mahalo nui,

Makanalani Gomes

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:59:55 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Noa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Jacob Noa and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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. Without 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 SB 618.

Jacob Noa

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 1:04:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B. Lani PrunÃ©s	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to write testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill.

My name is Bianca Lani P. and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

BLP

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Angel Wright and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Angel Wright

On behalf of AF3IRM - Hawai'i

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 1:18:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. **As a member of AF3IRM Hawaii and someone who deeply loves and respects the queer and trans members of our community, I strongly support this measure and respectfully ask that you pass this important bill that would eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.**

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

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

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 1:50:03 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Mahalo for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Carolyn Ornellas and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to please pass this measure and end discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:48:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andre Bisquera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB618.

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.

Andre Bisquera

LATE

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Mindy Mizobe and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Mindy Mizobe

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:30:55 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Esaki-Kua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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.

As a new parent myself, I encourage you to support this bill to expand rights to LGBTQ+ parents who deserve the same rights, privileges, and joys I have in parenting my child without any unnecessary burdens and barriers.

Mahalo for your dedication to LGBTQ+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on SB 618.

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:32:16 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Carrillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Naomi Carrillo and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 queer women, my partner and I have many concerns and worries related to having and raising children in the near future. No matter what method we choose to go about creating our family- whether it be through IFV, insemination, or adoption- there are challenges in securing our position in the eyes of law and policy, as the true parents of the children we rear and raise. We should not be punished for our partnership and support this bill in the steps it would take to right these disparities. Quality of childcare does not and will never fall on the gender identities of their parents. As a same-sex couple, our challenges are compounded immensely, and to have the right to be recognized as our kids' parents should be guaranteed, without additional hurdles and financial penalty.

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 SB 618.

Naomi Carrillo

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:33:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Kaleiwahea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha--Please pass this bill. Thank you.

LATE

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Christina Buchanan, and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 an OB/GYN physician in Hawaii, I have the honor of helping people of all different backgrounds bring new life into the world. I have also witnessed the gender discrimination that same-sex and queer couples face when building their families. As a female in a serious relationship with another woman, I also worry about how my future children may be affected by discrimination against LGBTQ+ families.

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 SB 618.

Christina Buchanan, MD

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:58:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Ing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support non-male partners being able to volunteer themselves as legal parents on birth certificates.

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:12:28 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Gushiken	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQIA+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Gregory Gushiken and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQIA+ parents.

SB 618 amends the unconstitutional restriction on the equal rights of LGBTQIA+ 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 gendered terms such as “paternity,” in recognition of the validity of all birthing people and families.

When the State of Hawai‘i passed the Marriage Equality Act in 2013, Hawai‘i was championed by many for its commitments to the LGBTQIA+ community. However, as demonstrated now by the continuing problem of the “queer parent penalty,” there is a clear failure by the State of Hawai‘i to protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. While, since 2013, LGBTQIA+ people have been able to marry in the State of Hawai‘i, it is disappointing that such crucial rights for the LGBTQIA+ community are still obstructed by queer parent penalties, which often cause immense financial burden and, ultimately, prevent those in our LGBTQIA+ community from establishing critical legal recognition in regards to parentage.

Gender identity must not be a barrier for a non-binary, female, or non-male-identifying 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 LGBTQIA+ parents are subject to the “queer parent penalty” - LGBTQIA+ 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, LGBTQIA+ 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 LGBTQIA+ rights in Hawai'i and the opportunity to testify on SB 618.

Me ke aloha,

Gregory Gushiken

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:56:56 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josiah Saifoloi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Josiah Saifoloi and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, I believe that it is vital to allow them to same rights to parentage that we offer to heterosexual couples here in Hawaii. There are many children out there in need of a loving home and there is no valid reason to deny any potential families the chance to parent them because of their sexual orientation. By doing so, we are not only denying these potential adopters

a chance at starting and raising a family, but we are also denying these children an opportunity to be welcomed into a loving home.

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 SB 618.

Josiah Saifoloi

On behalf of AF3IRM - Hawaii

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:06:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 618. All partners of birthing persons, regardless of their gender identity, deserve to be established as parents of children birthed by their partners. This would benefit families in Hawaii and stop the discrimination against LGBTQ people as they build their families.

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:39:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dejan Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Dejan and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

This bill has incredible impacts on my future as a queer, mixed Native Hawaiian woman. For much of my life, I have felt supported in many spaces for loving who I love, regardless of their gender identity. I love being in Hawai'i because this is where my family has lived for many generations. However, external motivators such as being priced out of Hawai'i have led to so many leaving. This is yet another financial barrier rooted in oppression that will cause Native people and our queer communities to leave in order to have a fully recognized family. I would like to not be penalized for choosing a partner who is, simply, not a man. I am advocating for this bill as a plea for a way to ensure my future generations to be born here without penalty.

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 SB 618.

Dejan Perez

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:56:04 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Yang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a queer person and a doctor that cares for families of all types and arrangements, I support this bill. The current legal barriers to non-heterosexual partners establishing voluntary parenthood are archaic and illogical. It's time for Hawai'i to recognize all parents regardless of sexual orientation or gender.

Nancy Yang, MD, OBGYN

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:28:22 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenzie Ozoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Mackenzie Ozoa and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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 woman who outwardly loves other women and who someday wishes to have children of her own, I ask that you think about what it would mean if you did not amend SB 618. Without SB 618, non-binary, transgender, and other parents who don’t identify as male are subject to paying thousands of dollars and are expected to jump through various hoops in order to establish their parental rights as their bodies and gender identity are called into question. No one should be denied the right to parenting their own children on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity. One day I hope to have a family of my own, and when that time comes I, and other future parents, shouldn’t have to worry about whether or not my child is recognized as my own by the state.

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 SB 618.

Mackenzie Ozoa

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:54:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:11:05 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Sueoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I'm writing to express my support for SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. I believe that an individual's right to be recognized as the parent of their child should not be contingent on their gender identity. Voluntarily establishing legal parentage allows for both parents to appear on their child's birth certificate, which facilitates access to services that ensure the child's well being, such as education and healthcare. Parents should not incur a gender-based penalty for trying to access these basic services on behalf of their child. I also strongly support this bill's provisions to adopt gender neutral language in recognition of the validity of all birthing people and families.

I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dawn Sueoka

LATE

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Kaley Kelling and I strongly support this measure. As an LGBTQ+ persons advocate, I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Na‘u me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kaley Kelling

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:48:33 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zara Nicholson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice-Chair, Members of the Committee,

My name is Zara Nicholson and I am testifying in support of SB618.

I believe this bill will create a great positive impact in our community. There is a huge need for healthy and safe families for our children and many queer families wish to adopt and offer that safe environment. Thus, parenthood should be established to individuals adopting regardless of their gender identity or biological contribution to the child. As a queer individual who does not identify as male and wishes to adopt, this bill directly supports my future and my children's future. Please push this bill to be passed.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity,

Zara Nicholson, CPA

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:49:23 PM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Breanna Agas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Breanna Komata Agas and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

Given that I and many of my loved ones are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, it is imperative that I write this testimony. SB 618 is one of the first steps to combatting these unconstitutional and discriminatory treatment/laws that have been given the queer community. Inhibiting one's choice to parenthood on the basis of their sexuality and identity is inhumane.

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 SB 618.

- Breanna Agas

[Student at the University of Hawai'i at MÄ• noa]

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 4:03:55 AM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francis Camuso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. AF3IRM - Hawai'i strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments to highlight the significant impact this bill will have on families across Hawai'i. My name is Francis Camuso and I strongly support this measure. We urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

My partner and I should not have to undergo the financial burdens and emotional stress for wanting children. I am testifying to remove the laws that suppress the visibility and validity of queer parenthood.

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 SB 618.

Francis Camuso

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 6:38:14 AM
Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Rizzolo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sexual Orientation is not a choice. Children deserve loving families and should not fear being taken away from a parent due to the gender of said parent. Parents should not have to worry about their children being taken from them, children that theyve raised since birth Due to the genitalia of both respected parents. Just because it takes sperm to make a baby, does not mean that the sperm donor is a parent. LGBT citizens deserve the right to have a protected family unit.

LATE

SB-618

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 9:21:12 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 618 - Relating to Parentage

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 618 - Relating to Parentage, also known as the LGBTQ+ Family Justice Bill. My name is Ashley Katamoto and I strongly support this bill. I urge you to pass this measure and eliminate discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents.

SB 618 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.

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 SB 618.

Ashley Katamoto