

**GM-663**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 2:06:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ben Nause	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As long as I have known Phillip, he has been an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, both in his professional and personal life. He was the founder of the GSA club at his former place of employment, to provide a space for all students to feel comfortable. He also confidently embodies what it means to be a part of the LGBTQ+ community, which is what Hawai'i needs, confidence. Lastly, his dedication and work ethic would allow this commission to thrive.

**GM-663**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 2:14:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Penny S Nichols	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I had the privilege of working with Philip Steinbacher for 16 years. We were both teachers at Island School, a private school in Lihue serving students in pre-kindergarten through high school. Philip was the music director and I was in charge of the visual arts. During this time he also taught English and was the head of the Fine Arts Department. I found Philip to be an inspiring educator and a remarkable human being...someone with integrity and vision. I am forever grateful for all I learned from him. Philip is a hard worker and brilliant organizer. I highly recommend him for this position.

**GM-663**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 2:14:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
MARJORIE DE SOUZA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Marjorie De Souza, I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Philip Steinbacher's appointment to serve on the Hawai'i LGBTQ+ Governor's Advisory Commission. I have know him for over 15 years. As a mother of a queer daughter, Philip played a key role in her feeling confident in who she was as school and supported her creative spirit. He is a loud, proud and active member of the LGTBQ community. I've seen him navigate through oppression and biased with integrity and example. His example has shown our daughter a great example of how to lead with example and love and empathy. His leadership in our community can't be overstated. I know he'd serve us all well.

Thank you,

Marjorie De Souza

**GM-663**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 5:29:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joe P. Moss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives: I strongly support the nomination of Philip Steinbacher to the Hawai'i State LGBTQ Commission. I have known him approximately 20 years. He has done great things for our community. He worked as a teacher at Island Schools for many years with great results. He has been at the forefront of the LGBTQ community on Kauai. He is honest, caring, articulate, smart, and is well known on Kauai generally and by Kauai's LGBTQ community. Please let him serve.

Thank you, Joe Moss

**GM-663**

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 1:47:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Blake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Philip Steinbacher is committed to protecting and advocating for the LGBTQ+ populations of Kauai and beyond. He would be a valuable servant to the state.

Testimony in Support of Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, PHILIP STEINBACHER.

April 10, 2024

My wife and I are writing in support of the nomination of Philip Steinbacher to serve on the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission. The two of us have lived on Kauai for nine years, and have known Philip since 2016.

Philip will be an excellent addition to the Commission as the voting member from Kauai. He is a long-time resident of Kauai, since 2005, and a highly active member of the LGBTQ+ community here. Philip's broad involvement includes, to just name a few areas, the annual Pride celebration and associated activities throughout the year; founder and supporter of local schools' LGBTQ+ support groups; and author of a much-appreciated biweekly newsletter, Garden Island Tea, that connects our diverse community with news of events and fun information about LGBTQ+ people.

Why Philip? The Tea newsletter, and the several books he has authored, especially display Philip's excellent communication skills. As a gay man, Philip can certainly bring that perspective to the Commission, and he is so well connected within the various parts of our community here that he can channel more diverse viewpoints beyond his own. And Philip is curious. His curiosity about who we each are, as individuals, is deeply honoring. He invites us all to be exactly who we are, accepted. We believe this would serve the commission especially well, for this beautiful and diverse community.

As a well-respected educator here on island and on the mainland, Philip will be especially valuable in helping develop a long-range program of education for the LGBTQ+ community about our political rights and responsibilities. (Our granddaughter had Philip as a teacher and choir director, and he was one of her favorites!). Philip's involvement as a volunteer for The Trevor Project, the nation's leading LGBTQ+ youth crisis intervention organization, should well position him to be able to cooperate and collaborate with national groups on the status of the LGBTQ+ community, and arrange for State participants in relevant national conferences.

Overall, Philip is a delight to interact with, and we think he will make a great member of the Commission and ably represent our island in this important endeavor.

