



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads and Committee Members,

SUBJECT: SB1284 – Proposing an Amendment to Article 1, Section 5, of the Hawai'i Constitution Relating to Due Process and Equal Protection

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities SUPPORTS SB1284, which proposes an amendment to the state constitution to prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes.

For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), ensuring due process and equal protection is vital for their full participation in society without fear of discrimination. Historically, people with I/DD have faced barriers in education, employment, healthcare, and community inclusion. While federal protections, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are in place, embedding these protections in our state constitution reaffirms Hawai'i's commitment to prohibit discrimination and guarantees rights for all at the highest level of law.

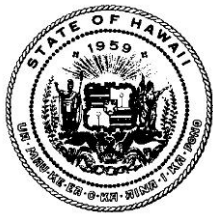
SB1284 is a critical step for Hawai'i to ensure all individuals, regardless of ability, have access to due process and equal protection under the law. This amendment strengthens legal protections, affirms the dignity of individuals with I/DD, and lays the groundwork for eliminating barriers to full community inclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB1284**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

February 4, 2025

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 1284 – Proposing an Amendment to Article 1, section 5

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 1284 – Proposing an Amendment to Article I, Section 5 of the Hawaii Constitution Relating to Due Process and Equal Protection.

This bill proposes to expand the existing list of groups that are protected from discrimination to include persons with disabilities, among others, in alignment with various federal civil rights laws. Federal laws have ensured civil right protections through acts such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Fair Housing Act of 1968, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (specifically section 504), Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and finally, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These federal laws prohibit discrimination. Enshrining these same protections into the State Constitution would be a powerful symbol of Hawaii's commitment to equality.

The passage of these statutes has been instrumental in breaking down barriers that once excluded individuals with disabilities from education, employment, transportation, and public life. They have opened up opportunities for people with disabilities to pursue higher education, secure meaningful employment, and navigate public spaces with greater independence and confidence.

Incorporating these protections into the Hawaii State Constitution would further emphasize Hawaii's commitment to ensuring that individuals with disabilities have equal access to opportunities and can fully participate in all aspects of society. This measure would provide a lasting affirmation of Hawaii's dedication to building a more accessible future for people with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:15 a.m.

**SB1284-Proposing an Amendment to Article 1, Section 5, of the Hawaii
Constitution Relating to Due Process and Equal Protection**

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii opposes/supports SB1284.

This bill proposes to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to ensure the protection of the civil rights of all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes.

The League of Women Voters believes that government at all levels has the responsibility to protect civil liberties and to provide equality of opportunity for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. These rights and protections should not be weakened or abridged. This provision makes clear the State of Hawaii stands for the protections and civil rights of all its residents. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB1284

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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

January 31, 2025

Senate's Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 9:15 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1284

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1284, which seeks to amend the Hawai'i State Constitution, Article 1, Section 5 to explicitly ban discrimination based on ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. This amendment is a significant step toward ensuring equal rights for all residents and workers in Hawai'i.

As an advocate for LGBTQIA+ workers and allies, we understand firsthand the barriers that discrimination creates in employment, healthcare, and other aspects of daily life. Strengthening our state's constitutional protections will help ensure that no person is unfairly treated due to their identity or personal circumstances. It is essential that Hawai'i continues to lead in fostering fairness, dignity, and respect for everyone.

Adding explicit protections for sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy outcomes is particularly necessary. Nationwide, individuals in these groups face systemic discrimination, threatening their safety, economic security, and access to essential services. By embedding these protections in our state's constitution, we reinforce our commitment to equality and shield these rights from shifting political landscapes.

Additionally, protections related to pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes affirm the right to bodily autonomy and personal medical decision-making. No one should face discrimination or punitive actions for making choices about their own reproductive health. This amendment ensures that those rights remain safeguarded.

Passing Senate Bill 1284 affirms that Hawai'i stands for justice, inclusion, and equal treatment under the law. We urge the Committee to advance this bill and give the people of Hawai'i the opportunity to enshrine these protections in our constitution.

Mahalo for your consideration. We strongly encourage the passage of SB 1284 to uphold the rights of all individuals in our state.

In solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
President
[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill [1284] PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 5, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATING TO DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION. PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 5, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATING TO DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and I am testifying on behalf of our Caucus in strong support of SB1284, a proposed amendment to Article 1, Section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution, to ensure explicit **protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes.**

Why This Amendment is Necessary:

Hawai'i has long been a leader in protecting civil rights, but our constitution must reflect the evolving understanding of equal protection and human dignity. SB1284 strengthens our commitment to fairness and inclusivity by ensuring that all individuals—regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, or reproductive choices—receive the same protections as other protected groups.

1. Explicit Constitutional Protection Matters

- While federal and state laws provide some protections, constitutional amendments create lasting safeguards that cannot be easily overturned by shifting political climates.
- By adding sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes to Hawaii's constitution, we affirm that no person should be treated as less than equal under the law.

2. Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights

- Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity continues to be a reality in employment, housing, healthcare, and public accommodations.
- By enshrining these protections in our constitution, Hawaii sends a clear message: All individuals, regardless of who they love or how they identify, are entitled to full and equal protection under the law.

3. Defending Reproductive Freedom

- In light of recent national threats to reproductive rights, it is critical that Hawaii upholds its commitment to protecting pregnant individuals from discrimination.
- No person should face employment discrimination, denial of healthcare, or biased treatment based on their pregnancy status or reproductive choices.
- SB1284 ensures that decisions about pregnancy, childbirth, and reproductive healthcare remain personal and free from discrimination.

Hawai'i Must Continue to Lead on Civil Rights

As one of the most diverse states in the nation, Hawai'i has a moral responsibility to ensure that our laws reflect the values of equality, dignity, and respect. Passing SB1284 would solidify our state's commitment to justice and fairness for all, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or reproductive decisions.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to pass SB1284 and allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on this important amendment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Abby Simmons (she/her)
Chair & SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
<https://linktr.ee/stonewalldph>



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

February 2, 2025

Senate's Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 9:15 AM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1284 – PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 5, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATING TO DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1284 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus. (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature with the following purpose:

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

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission strongly supports Senate Bill 1284, which proposes a constitutional amendment to the Hawai'i State Constitution to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. This measure represents a critical step in ensuring that Hawai'i remains a leader in civil rights protections and continues to uphold the values of equality, dignity, and justice for all residents.

As a state that prides itself on its rich cultural diversity and commitment to inclusivity, it is imperative that our constitution clearly affirms the fundamental right of every individual to be free from discrimination. While statutory protections exist, enshrining these protections within our state constitution provides a necessary safeguard against potential future rollbacks and ensures that all people in Hawai'i—regardless of their identity or circumstances—are treated with fairness and respect under the law.

The addition of explicit protections for sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy outcomes is particularly important. Across the nation, LGBTQIA+ individuals and those seeking reproductive healthcare continue to face discrimination, systemic barriers, and threats to their rights. By codifying these protections into our constitution, Hawai'i has the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to justice and set an example for other states in fostering an inclusive society.

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1284

Furthermore, ensuring protections against discrimination based on pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes aligns with the principles of reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy, reinforcing the right of individuals to make deeply personal healthcare decisions without fear of judgment or reprisal.

The passage of Senate Bill 1284 will not only strengthen Hawai'i's legal framework against discrimination but also send a powerful message that our state unequivocally values and respects all its residents. We urge the Legislature to support this measure and place the proposed amendment before the voters of Hawai'i so that they, too, can affirm their commitment to equality and human rights.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB 1284 and move this vital amendment forward.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, Ph.D. (she/her)

Chair

[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)



LAMBDA LAW HAWAI'I
WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [SB1284](#)

Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 5th, 2025

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

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, **strongly supports SB1284**. This bill puts forth a proposed amendment to Article 1, Section 5 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, **to ensure explicit protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes**.

While these aspects of identity and status may be currently statutorily protected, we believe it is vital to push to enshrine these in our State Constitution. The current moment calls for this: we should be given the chance to solidify these protections **in the face of increased attacks on LGBTQ+ communities that are coming from the U.S. Presidential Administration**.

We know that **members of our communities across these islands continue to face discrimination in the realms of healthcare, employment, housing and much more based on actual or perceived membership in the above stated categories**. You, as Hawai'i State legislators, have the opportunity to allow the people of Hawai'i to show up and demand greater protections against discrimination.

Please support SB1284. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law
Mission: To advance equal rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals at WSRSL and beyond.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:12:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Kay	Testifying for Indivisible Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members, I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.



To: Judiciary Committee
Hearing Date/Time: February 6, 2025/9:15 AM
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016 & Videoconference
Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 1284

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 1284, [proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit discrimination against a person because of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes.](#)

The current Equal Protection Provision in the Hawai'i State Constitution only protects against discrimination based on **race, religion, sex or ancestry**. Art. I, Sec. 5 Due Process and Equal Protection Clause.

S.B. 1284 would add these additional categories for protection against discrimination: ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. These additional categories are also protected under Hawai'i state employment discrimination law.

Including these additional categories in the state constitution:

- ensures that individuals belonging to these groups are afforded equal protection under the law. This protection is crucial for upholding civil rights and preventing discrimination based on immutable characteristics.
- sends a strong message about Hawaii's commitment to equality and inclusion. It establishes a legal foundation for promoting diversity and fostering a society where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.
- acknowledges past and current injustices against certain groups, e.g., pregnant people, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, Kupunas, etc., and signals a commitment to rectifying them through legal protection and equal treatment.
- establishes a clear standard for evaluating laws and policies to ensure they do not discriminate against individuals based on these protected characteristics.

- serves as a safeguard against the enactment of discriminatory legislation that targets or disproportionately affects individuals based on their ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, or pregnancy outcomes.
- reflects evolving societal values and norms regarding equality, diversity, and inclusion. It demonstrates a commitment to adapting legal frameworks to align with changing perspectives and addressing emerging issues related to discrimination and equality.
- ensures that individuals who experience discrimination based on these characteristics have legal remedies and recourse available to them. It strengthens their ability to challenge discriminatory practices and seek justice through legal avenues.

S.B. 1284 will foster a more inclusive and equitable society, where individuals are treated fairly and have equal opportunities regardless of their immutable characteristics.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawai'i is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

Sincerely,
Sandy Ma, Esq.
Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawai'i
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:06:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Matsunaga	Testifying for Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii supports SB1284

SB-1284

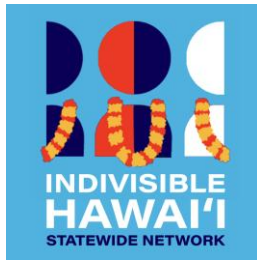
Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:38:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Testifying for Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii supports SB1284



To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 6, 2025
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1284

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

Members of Indivisible Hawai'i thanks you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1284 which proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit discrimination against a person because of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes.

Sincerely,
Indivisible Hawai'i

We're a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. In Hawai'i, we have ten groups across four islands, representing over a thousand pro-democracy citizens.



**Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 6, 2025 at 9:15 AM
Room 016**

Testimony in SUPPORT for SB1284

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like to offer our **SUPPORT for SB1284**, which proposes to amend the state constitution to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. We support this bill and the opportunity to allow Hawai'i's residents to vote on this important amendment.

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits that works to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for the nonprofit sector, leveraging resources, educating and advocating for policies and practices that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

Nonprofit organizations play an essential role in bridging gaps in access to services and resources, often stepping in where systemic discrimination has created disparities. For example, nonprofits provide shelter for domestic violence survivors, advocacy for individuals with disabilities, safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals, support services for pregnant people, and healthcare and legal services for our most marginalized community members. The individuals served by nonprofits are often those most at risk of discrimination, and this amendment would enshrine protections that affirm their right to equitable treatment under state law.

This proposed amendment is critical in reinforcing the protections needed to ensure that all individuals—regardless of their ethnicity, age, disability status, religion, gender, or other characteristics—are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect. As our understanding of equity deepens, it is imperative that our foundational legal framework upholds the rights of all individuals. By explicitly prohibiting discrimination on these grounds via a proposed ballot initiative, we allow residents to send a clear and unequivocal message that Hawai'i values inclusivity, fairness, and justice for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.



February 4, 2025

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1284

Aloha Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Tara Nash and I have started the Indivisible Leeward Chapter on Oahu. I humbly request that you support SB 1284 to ensure that the most vulnerable among us are protected. Legislative protection matters; as it provides a shield from undue harm in times of need. It is our moral responsibility to help those who may be in peril.

Hawai'i is a melting pot of different nationalities and cultures. The spirit of Aloha is alive when we show that respect to our fellow man. It is pertinent that protections are afforded to all residents of Hawai'i. This bill legislatively prohibits discrimination against a person based on their ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. These are basic rights that should be protected for all citizens of the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tara Nash

Indivisible Leeward Oahu

indivisibleleewardoahu@gmail.com

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:27:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given recent events in Washington DC it would be a good idea to enshrine these protections into our State Constitution.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:38:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose this measure. It is NOT needed.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:47:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1284. Please pass.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Board Member Rainbow Family 808; Board Member Pride at Work

SB-1284

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 10:18:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1284.

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

Please vote YES on this measure.

Nancy Moser in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 7:39:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:08:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. We in Hawaii need to defend all minorities from discrimination.

Please support SB1284 to protect democracy in Hawaii.

Mahalo.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:28:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise L Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:40:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary M. McNamara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. We are all humans and equal.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:57:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committe Members:

I write in support of SB1284. I support this measure to proect the rights of all people, including our LGBTQIA+ neighbors.

Thank you,

Noelle R Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:05:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure and urge you to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's residents. All of us are threatened if the rights of any one of us is taken away. Given the Trump administration's horrendous record and rhetoric denigrating women, people of color, trans people, gays and lesbians, and more, this is an essential measure to protect us.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:27:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate members,

Please support this measure to ensure that everyone has equal protection under the law, regardless of who they are. The current administration has made it clear that they will go as far as they can to silence and erase any human expression they do not approve of. That doesn't make any of those expressions go away. People should be free to be who they really are without fear. Being forced to hide or deny oneself only creates bad outcomes for people and society. When people can be who they are, they are happy, and happy people make happy and productive citizens. Let's send a clear and incontrovertible message that Hawaii stands for equality and freedom.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in this issue,
Gabrielle Davidson

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:06:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1284.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:44:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I suppott this bill to protect women and LGBT people from bigots.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:00:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. So sad we even have to consider this kind of legislation

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:13:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1284

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:20:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jane jamison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion.

Mahalo

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:45:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Hornik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this constitutional amendment to prohibit discrimination against a person because of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. Now more than ever, such a protection in our Constitutional would serve as an important safeguard against the enactment of discriminatory legislation that might target or disproportionately affect any individual resident. Thank you.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:46:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Dark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:55:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 1:38:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother and nurse practitioner I fully support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:06:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Gately	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:56:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. Our vulnerable communities need to be protected from violence and discrimination while they are just trying to live their lives. Hawaii is better than hate.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 3:15:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diann Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. If the federal government doesn't protect us, let's make sure the state of Hawaii does.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 3:22:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 3:36:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Yazawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Evan Yazawa, and I am a transgender nonbinary person living in Hawai‘i. I am testifying in strong support of SB 1284 because equal protection under the law should be a reality for all of us, not just an ideal.

For too long, people like me have had to navigate a world where our rights, dignity, and even safety are uncertain. Discrimination is not just about being denied a job or housing—it’s about the daily fear of being treated as less than human. It’s about wondering if our healthcare, education, and legal protections will reflect the truth of who we are. SB 1284 makes it clear that Hawai‘i stands for fairness, for justice, and for recognizing every person’s right to exist as their full self without fear.

I urge you to pass this bill and give Hawai‘i voters the opportunity to affirm that all of us—regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other inherent part of who we are—deserve equal protection. Let’s make Hawai‘i a leader in true inclusivity.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Evan Yazawa

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 4:33:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Belinda pate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you so much for reading my testimony. Hawaii has been a safeplace for LGBTQ for as long as I can remember....and I am 59...so that's a long time! I remember Hawaii being there for me when I desparately needed an abortion way back in in 1987! Hawaii has been a beacon for equal rights for all, which is one of the reasons I call it home. Fast forward to the family I started, and in 1993, I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, a hard working and academic virtuoso, who would grow up to become a doctor at a young age. He is also gay.

There is not much I would not to to protect his rights as a gay man. Rights to work, to marry, to parent, to live where he chooses. He is not only a pivitol contributor to our society, but, he is also just plain human. I don't beleive one needs to be superhuman to ask for LGBTQ rights to be protected.

When all of our rights are protected, we all benefit. Please support this bill.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:22:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:28:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this measure. I strongly support this measure to safeguard the LGBTQIA+ residents in Hawaii as well as those who seek abortion service against discriminatory legislation.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:51:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I shall be brief and concise, I strongly support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents! Equal protection to all.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:35:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Elyse Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Who discriminates on the basis of ethnicity and national origin? Racists and xenophobes. The basis of age and disability? The prejudiced. The basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression? Bigots and meddlers. The basis of pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes? Misogynists.

Which of these groups is deserving of your protection, the oppressors or the oppressed?

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:41:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA + residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:13:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eve Furchgott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Essential human rights and fair treatment should not be on the chopping block! Please pass this constitutional amendment to help ensure as much legal protection & safety as can in our State for people of any gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other personal factors.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:38:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:14:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

PLEASE help Hawaii protect our LGBTQ residents against possible threats from the Federal government!

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:40:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect the reproductive and civil rights of all Hawaii's residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:23:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel D Laderman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawai'i's LGBTQIA+ residents

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:15 am, Conference Rm. 016

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1284 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 5, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATING TO DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION

From: Jean Evans, (Individual)

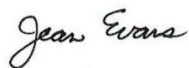
Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of Committees,

My name is Jean Evans and I am **strong support of SB 1284** which proposes a constitutional amendment to broaden protection against discrimination: ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes.

Hawaii must take a proactive stance to prevent further erosion of individual rights coming from the current and future federal administrations. Passing SB 1284 will give Hawaii voters a chance to vote to assure that our State remains a leader in protecting civil rights.

Please support this bill for a constitutional amendment to broaden the equal protection provision of Article 1, Section 5 (Due Process and Equal Protection Clause) to foster a more inclusive and equitable society, where individuals are treated fairly and have equal opportunities regardless of their immutable characteristics.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Evans".

Jean Evans

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:34:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DORIEN MCCLELLAN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must all be guaranteed due process, regardless of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:48:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 1284

Aloha Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Tamara Luthy, and I am a bisexual woman testifying in strong support of SB 1284. This bill represents a crucial step toward ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or reproductive choices, are afforded equal protection under the law.

The right to bodily autonomy is foundational to human dignity. Yet, time and again, we have seen how the absence of explicit legal protections leaves individuals—particularly women and LGBTQ+ people—vulnerable to discrimination. As a bisexual woman, I have witnessed firsthand how the validity of same-sex relationships is still challenged, even in states that outwardly support equality. Likewise, reproductive rights remain under constant threat when they are not firmly safeguarded. Without clear constitutional protections, fundamental freedoms become contingent on shifting political landscapes rather than enshrined legal principles.

SB 1284 affirms that every individual has an inherent right to self-determination, free from prejudice or interference. By passing this bill, Hawai‘i has the opportunity to reinforce its commitment to justice and inclusivity. I urge you to support this measure and allow the people of Hawai‘i to affirm their dedication to equal rights for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Dr. Tamara Luthy

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:43:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bailey Aughe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support reproductive rights for LGBTQ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:02:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Gosland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your consideration and advancement of this bill.

I fully support this constitutional amendment!

Thank you for protecting me, my 'ohana, my community.

-Melissa Gosland, MD

February 6, 2025

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: SB 1284 Proposing an Amendment to Article 1, Section 5, of the Hawai'i Constitution

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

I write in strong support of SB 1284 Proposing an Amendment to Article 1, Section 5, of the Hawai'i Constitution Relating to Due Process and Equal Protection which would add additional categories for protection against discrimination: ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. These categories are protected under Hawaii's employment discrimination law.

Including these additional categories ensures that individuals belonging to these groups are afforded equal protection under the law; protection that is crucial for upholding civil rights and preventing discrimination based on immutable characteristics. Currently, the Equal Protection Provision only protects discrimination based on race, religion, sex or ancestry. This wider protection would address emerging issues related to discrimination and equality.

I support this bill because amending the constitution broadens the equal protection provision of Article 1, Section 5 which will enable a more inclusive and equitable society, where individuals are treated fairly and have equal opportunities.

I respectfully ask the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:14:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Kok	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:52:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charley Tockey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:25:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:28:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phillip Jung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:58:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:57:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hilary Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1284's proposed constitutional amendment to provide comprehensive protection against discrimination, as it would strengthen Hawaii's commitment to treating all people with dignity and respect regardless of their ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy status, or pregnancy outcomes. This amendment would align our state constitution with Hawaii's deeply held values of inclusivity and aloha, while providing clear legal protections that ensure everyone can fully participate in our society without fear of unfair treatment or barriers to opportunity. By explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on these characteristics, Hawaii would set a powerful example of leadership in civil rights protection and demonstrate our dedication to building a more equitable society where every person's human dignity is recognized and protected under law.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:30:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Morse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:56:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anamica Bedi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion.

Testifying in **strong support of SB1284**

February 2, 2025

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice-chair Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: SB1284

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gail Breakey, and I am testifying in strong support of SB 2384.

This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit discrimination against a person because of ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes.

This amendment is needed to ensure that the rights of Hawaii citizens are upheld. Given the serious challenges posed by the current federal administrations intention to deny citizens their right to bodily autonomy and appropriate health care, as well as other assaults on civil rights of citizens, it is critical that this legislation be passed.

Thank you for your consideration of SB2384 and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Breakey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Breakey, RN, MPH

Equal Protection ConAm Talking Points

Current Equal Protection Provision in Hawaii State Constitution only protects against discrimination based on race, religion, sex or ancestry. Art. I, Sec. 5 Due Process and Equal Protection Clause

Bill would add these additional categories for protection against discrimination: ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. These categories are protected under Hawaii state employment discrimination law.

Including these additional categories in the state constitution:

- ensures that individuals belonging to these groups are afforded equal protection under the law. This protection is crucial for upholding civil rights and preventing discrimination based on immutable characteristics.
- sends a strong message about Hawaii's commitment to equality and inclusion. It establishes a legal foundation for promoting diversity and fostering a society where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.
- acknowledges past and current injustices against certain groups, e.g., pregnant people, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, Kupunas, etc., and signals a commitment to rectifying them through legal protection and equal treatment.
- establishes a clear standard for evaluating laws and policies to ensure they do not discriminate against individuals based on these protected characteristics.
- serves as a safeguard against the enactment of discriminatory legislation that targets or disproportionately affects individuals based on their ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, or pregnancy outcomes.
- reflects evolving societal values and norms regarding equality, diversity, and inclusion. It demonstrates a commitment to adapting legal frameworks to align with changing perspectives and addressing emerging issues related to discrimination and equality.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:24:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i has always lead in protecting the rights of ALL individuals. Please continue this important legacy.

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents"

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:49:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Laughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:06:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion. I believe that all individuals should have equal protection under the law. Equality and inclusion in our society demonstrates a commitment to treating all individuals with dignity and respect.

I support SB1284 for a constitutional amendment to broaden the equal protection provision of Article 1, Section 5 (Due Process and Equal Protection Clause) so that all persons are treated equally and fairly regardless of their ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:05:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAMELA SUMMERS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. Including these additional categories in the state constitution: serves as a safeguard against the enactment of discriminatory legislation that targets or disproportionately affects individuals based on their ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, or pregnancy outcomes.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:44:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Summers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

Here are just a few of the reasons:

- ensures that individuals belonging to these groups are afforded equal protection under the law. This protection is crucial for upholding civil rights and preventing discrimination based on immutable characteristics.
- sends a strong message about Hawaii's commitment to equality and inclusion. It establishes a legal foundation for promoting diversity and fostering a society where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.
- acknowledges past and current injustices against certain groups, e.g., pregnant people, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, Kupunas, etc., and signals a commitment to rectifying them through legal protection and equal treatment.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:14:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Gerald Montano. I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and a community pediatrician who take care of patients who belong in this community.

I am I am testifying in strong support of SB1284, aproposed amendment to Article 1, Section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution, to ensure explicit protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes.

Why This Amendment is Necessary:

Hawai‘i has long been a leader in protecting civil rights, but our constitution must reflect the evolving understanding of equal protection and human dignity. SB1284 strengthens our commitment to fairness and inclusivity by ensuring that all individuals—regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, or reproductive choices—receive the same protections as other protected groups.

1. Explicit Constitutional Protection Matters

- While federal and state laws provide some protections, constitutional amendments create lasting safeguards that cannot be easily overturned by shifting political climates.
- By adding sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes to Hawaii’s constitution, we affirm that no person should be treated as less than equal under the law.

2. Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights

- Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity continues to be a reality in employment, housing, healthcare, and public accommodations.
- By enshrining these protections in our constitution, Hawaii sends a clear message:

All individuals, regardless of who they love or how they identify, are entitled to full and equal protection under the law.

3. Defending Reproductive Freedom

- In light of recent national threats to reproductive rights, it is critical that Hawaii upholds its commitment to protecting pregnant individuals from discrimination.
- No person should face employment discrimination, denial of healthcare, or biased treatment based on their pregnancy status or reproductive choices.
- SB1284 ensures that decisions about pregnancy, childbirth, and reproductive healthcare remain personal and free from discrimination.

Hawai'i Must Continue to Lead on Civil Rights. As one of the most diverse states in the nation, Hawai'i has a moral responsibility to ensure that our laws reflect the values of equality, dignity, and respect. Passing SB1284 would solidify our state's commitment to justice and fairness for all, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or reproductive decisions.

As a pediatrician, I see firsthand how discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy can be harmful to one's health (worsening mental health, increased rates of sexual transmitted diseases, and delayed preventative care). This is not only a justice issue, but a public health issue as well.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to pass SB1284 and allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on this important amendment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Gerald Montano, DO

359 Kanaloa Avenue, Kahului, HI 96732

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:35:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsey Bryson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:48:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Piotrowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:18:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen M Gawrys	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a recently retired Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, it cannot be overstated how important this Amendment is to assure fair, safe, compassionate care for all.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:01:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy McCluskey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1284 has my strong support.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:28:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathie Becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:40:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals and those who seek abortion.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:29:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Britt Bailey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee, I am writing to strongly support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA + residents. This measure is critical to protecting the dignity, equality, and safety of Hawaii's people.

Sincerely, Britt Bailey

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:54:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill for a constitutional amendment to broaden the equal protection provision of Article 1, Section 5 (Due Process and Equal Protection Clause) to foster a more inclusive and equitable society, where individuals are treated fairly and have equal opportunities regardless of their immutable characteristics. Let's go, Hawai'i! So proud of this state and our Democrat representatives. Keep going and stay strong!

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:12:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support this bill that would add additional categories for protection against discrimination and sends a strong message about Hawaii's commitment to equality and inclusion. It establishes a legal foundation for promoting diversity and fostering a society where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

In addition it ensures that individuals who experience discrimination have legal remedies and recourse available to them. It strengthens their ability to challenge discriminatory practices and seek justice through legal avenues

Senate Judiciary Committee
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 9:15 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: SB1284 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 5, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATING TO DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION.

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

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1284, which broadens the Due Process and Equal Protection Clause of the Hawai'i State Constitution to include protections on the basis of ethnicity, age, disability, national ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and pregnancy outcome. In contemplating this Bill, I find that it is surprising that these protections have not already been duly enshrined in our state Constitution.

Hawai'i has long protected human and civil rights. As we witness the frightening escalation of a white, nationalist, Christian agenda in Washington, D.C., including attempts to destroy diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and to fire people on the basis of their gender identity, it is timely and appropriate to formally protect these human and civil rights in Hawai'i.

I request that the Committee expeditiously pass SB 1284.

Mahalo for your time.

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:34:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlee Monahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Without strong legal protections, discrimination thrives. We have seen this in the erosion of reproductive rights and the blatant efforts to roll back civil rights for marginalized groups. Federal protections are no longer reliable, and SB1284 is a necessary step to ensure that Hawai‘i’s constitution explicitly protects all of its people from discrimination, no matter the political climate.

LGBTQ+ individuals, in particular, remain targets of systemic discrimination, from legal attacks on same-sex marriage and adoption rights to the increasing efforts to ban gender-affirming care. Across the country, extremist lawmakers have attempted to erase LGBTQ+ identities from public life, from banning books that acknowledge queer existence to criminalizing drag performances and barring trans individuals from using public facilities. These groups are being pushed to the margins, treated as political scapegoats rather than human beings deserving of dignity and respect.

It is also crucial that this amendment includes protections for people’s pregnancies and pregnancy outcomes. We have already seen how states that criminalize abortion have begun surveilling and prosecuting people for miscarriages and other pregnancy complications. The ability to safely seek medical care without fear of legal repercussions should be a right, not a privilege. Protecting against discrimination based on pregnancy and reproductive choices ensures that no one is forced into government-mandated childbirth or punished for making the best medical decisions for themselves.

Ensuring that these principles are enshrined in our state constitution is not just the right thing to do—it is essential to safeguarding our communities from the rising tide of authoritarianism and state-sanctioned discrimination. Passing SB1284 is a clear statement that Hawai‘i will not allow its people to be treated as second-class citizens in their own home.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:58:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:16:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:44:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1284 by Senator Chris Lee. Our state constitution needs to be updated to include a broader range of protections than it currently has. As a lesbian, I am becoming more and more concerned about the moves on a federal level to remove my current rights. Transgendered people are absolutely under attack.

Please do the proper compassionate thing here in Hawaii and support this bill.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

Big Island

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:52:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celine Chang	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. This amendment is essential for ensuring that all individuals in our state are treated with the dignity, respect, and fairness they deserve.

Every person, regardless of their background or personal circumstances, should have the right to live free from discrimination and prejudice. Unfortunately, we know that discrimination is a reality for many people in our state. Whether it's someone being denied a job because of their ethnicity, a pregnant person facing bias at work or in healthcare, or a transgender individual being harassed or denied necessary services, discrimination has far-reaching and harmful consequences for those who face it.

This proposed amendment represents an important step toward creating a more just and equitable society. By adding explicit protections in our state constitution, we would be making it clear that discrimination of any kind—whether based on age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy status—has no place in our state. No one should have to worry about losing their job, their healthcare, or their rights simply because of who they are, how they identify, or their life circumstances.

As someone who believes in the fundamental value of equality, I strongly support this amendment and its aim to protect vulnerable communities. Equal protection under the law is a foundational principle of justice, and it is time to ensure that this principle extends to everyone, regardless of their personal identity or experiences.

This amendment would not only protect individuals from harmful discrimination but would also send a clear message that our state values the inherent worth of every person. It would help create an environment where people can live and thrive without fear of being judged or treated unfairly because of factors that are beyond their control.

I urge you to support this constitutional amendment and work toward a future where every individual, regardless of their ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy status, is guaranteed the equal protection of the law.

Hawai'i Must Continue to Lead on Civil Rights

As one of the most diverse states in the nation, Hawai'i has a moral responsibility to ensure that our laws reflect the values of equality, dignity, and respect. Passing SB1284 would solidify our state's commitment to justice and fairness for all, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or reproductive decisions.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to pass SB1284 and allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on this important amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:29:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB1284 to ensure the Hawaii State Constitution has explicit protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. Our state has a moral obligation to ensure our laws reflect the values of equality, dignity, and respect. I ask that you vote to pass SB1284 and allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on this important amendment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lynn Robinson Onderko

Ewa Beach, HI

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:10:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bella Dadzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:49:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Allen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Bill SB1284. Mahalo, Jan Allen

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:11:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Decker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect reproductive rights and Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ residents. Please do everything in your power to let each individual citizen have body autonomy. I am a practicing Catholic, yet I strongly believe it is a foundational human right to protect reproductive rights (freedom to choose) and the rights of LGBTQIA+ residents. Please keep us from going under the influence of religious nationalist white supremacy/fascist pig chaos. I served in the Army in the early 2000s during the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" era and see the amazing contributions our military coworkers make, now that they don't have to hide who they love or who they are. And as a mother, I believe in protecting those most vulnerable or marginalized. Please help! We cannot go back. The future is inclusive!

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:36:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and members,

Strong support for this measure. We have always been a state that includes all in our Ohana. With the hate-filled darkness descending out of the national capitol. Measures like this are vital to protect our beautiful island culture.

Ann S. Freed

Mililani, HI

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:01:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to SB 1284.

Due to time constraints, I will focus on the gender identity portion of the bill. Biological boys/men often have a physical advantage over girls/women in competitive sports. Girls/women have been seriously injured playing against trans athletes. Last year, a trans athlete spiked a volleyball, and caused a female athlete, Payton McNabb, to suffer a serious brain injury, paralysis and a host of other physical problems. In another case, a trans athlete threw a ball with such force at a female player that her teeth were knocked out. And the list of injuries caused by trans athletes on females continues to grow.

In dormitories, prisons, homeless shelters, and other residential facilities that house girls/women and allow trans women in the same facility, girls/women have suffered serious harm. These trans women have sexually assaulted and raped women. They have been caught staring at the women when they shower, and making lewd comments to them. Convicted child molesters and sexual predators are being allowed to be in the same cell as women. Women have complained about it to the guards, but often, little is done right away. Sometimes the abuse goes on for months.

The legal implications of this component of the bill are not clear. Last week Friday, the DOE scrapped Biden's executive order rewriting Title IX so that trans persons were protected against discrimination. President Trump also issued executive orders stating that sex discrimination does not apply to gender identity.

In addition to actions of the DOE and President Trump, I ask that you respectfully consider the women's rights of privacy, their safety and well-being, and protect them from sexual, verbal, emotional and physical abuse. Kindly vote no on SB 1284. Thank you.

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:40:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Van De Car	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposed amendment would strengthen protections for some of the most vulnerable of our citizens from discrimination. Please move this bill forward. In this political climate, we need these protections. The language is clear and simple and we would be affirming that no person should be treated as less than equal under the law.

LATE

SB-1284

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:30:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sadie Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Sadie, a resident of Maui, and I am a member of multiple, intersecting communities affected by this bill, including the LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1284, which proposes an amendment to Article I, Section 5, of the Hawai'i State Constitution to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, age, disability, religion, national ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes.

In traditional Hawaiian culture, the concept of māhū refers to individuals who embody both male and female spirits, occupying a respected place within society. Māhū were integral to the community, often serving in spiritual and social roles, and their existence highlights a cultural acknowledgment of gender fluidity and non-binary identities.

By enshrining these protections in our state constitution, we honor Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage of inclusivity and respect for diverse gender identities. This amendment reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding the dignity and rights of all individuals, ensuring that no one faces discrimination due to their identity or personal circumstances.

I urge you to support SB1284 and allow the people of Hawai'i the opportunity to solidify these essential protections in our constitution.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Sadie Green

Maui, Hawai'i